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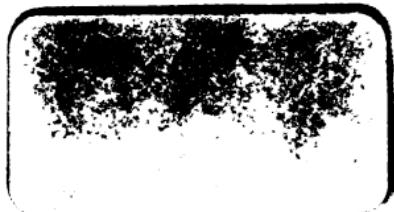
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THE

DEATH OF IVAN THE TERRIBLE.

A Tragedy

IN FIVE ACTS.

THE DEATH
OF
IVAN THE TERRIBLE.

A Tragedy

IN FIVE ACTS.

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN OF COUNT A. K. TOLSTOI,
(WITH THE AUTHOR'S PERMISSION.)

BY

J. HENRY HARRISON.

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1869.

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INTRODUCTION.

INSTEAD of troubling the reader with a Preface of apology and explanation, I shall attempt a brief historical sketch, which may, perhaps, assist him in forming a judgment of the Play. In doing so, I shall keep chiefly in view the person and character of Ivan The Terrible, and shall avoid many details that would find their place in a fuller historical account.

After the Mongol era, the strength of which lasted during the greater part of the thirteenth century, Moscow had gradually risen into importance, and the grandfather and father of Ivan, Ivan III. and Vasili III., had put an end to that ruinous division of the country into separate and independent principalities, which, after being the chief cause of the success of the Tartars, had survived their fall. When Ivan IV. mounted the throne, at the age of three years, in 1533, his dominions were very far from being of the extent which we now associate with the name of Russia, and on all sides were surrounded by active

enemies. On the south the Crimean Khans were troublesome neighbours, continually breaking over the frontier to ravage, burn, and slay, and the Little Russians, known at Moscow as Tcherkasses, used to plunder the caravans that journeyed to Moscow. On the west the Kings of Poland, and the Teutonic Knights of Livonia, were ever ready for war. On the east the Tcheremèes and Nogay Tartars were ever breaking out, and Mahometan Princes, the enemies of the Greek Church, ruled in Kazan and Astrachan. Sweden, on the north west, often threatened the security of the Muscovite kingdom. Nor was the internal position of the kingdom better. Robbers ravaged all the plains washed by the Volga, and half-savage Kozacks wandered along those of the Don. Internal commerce and communication were impeded by the want of roads and by heavy customs duties. The people were universally robbed and oppressed by the Boyars, the Nobles, and the Dignitaries set over them by the Government. Manners and morals were at a low ebb. Composition by fine for murder was openly practised, while every festival led to some occasion for it; prisoners of war, on all sides, were sold as slaves; every fire—and fires were frequent, for the largest towns were chiefly of wood—was a scene of robbery. Famine, and plague, and contagious sores year after year swept off incredible numbers of the

population. In 1552, in Novgorod and round it, died 279,594 souls, and in 1553, at Pskoff alone, 25,000 men. A very interesting work, written by Ivan's Confessor and counsellor, the Priest Sylvester, gives us a clear idea of the position of the Russian woman of that day. Sylvester says, in his "Household," that women should be housekeepers, always working, and never talk of anything but housekeeping, and that the husband should correct his wife's faults by a beating administered with kindness. The art of printing had not yet found its way into Russia, and all that could be called literature consisted of Sacred Books, mostly in the Slavonic dialect, and a few Chronicles, in which historical events were mingled with fables and legends. Education among the people there was none, few of the Boyars could sign their names; and, notwithstanding the efforts of Vasili III. to encourage intercourse with foreigners, Russia was almost isolated from the rest of Europe. Novgorod and Pskoff were then the towns most known for their trade and their craftsmen, but a general want of skilled workmen was felt throughout all Russia.

Such was the kingdom to which Ivan succeeded. Can it be surprising that, under such circumstances, in the sixteenth century, in a country whose civilization was less developed than that of Saxon England in the tenth, an infant, born to all the flattery and

dangers of a throne, should become a tyrant, and earn the name of The Terrible ? However well that name was deserved, it is more surprising to find a period in that infant's after life when he was the benefactor of his people, the guardian of his country's welfare, her regenerator, and her idol. It is a strange fact that the worst tyrant to whom the history of Russia can point, should be remembered in the traditions of his people, more as the lawgiver and consolidator of his empire, the civilizer who established the bases of her civic privileges and laws, the hero who put an end to three Mongol empires, than as the torturer of his nobles and the exterminator of his subjects. Such is, nevertheless, the fact, and it is explained by the double nature of the man, due to his natural gifts and many high qualities, and the evil effects of an education that must have brutalized a far higher nature than his. This contrast in the character of Ivan is well sustained in the Play of Count Tolstoi, and is corroborated by his diametrically opposite conduct in the two distinctly opposed periods of his reign.

Ivan really began to reign only in 1547, in which year he was crowned and married to Anastasia. He was then eighteen. During the first five years of his minority his mother Elëna, and her favourite Telepneff, had governed the country. After her death the chief power resided in the Council of the Boyars. The two

princely houses of Shouiski and Belski alternately replaced each other as the leaders of the Council, and during the whole period each victory in the constant struggle was followed by the most cruel vengeance on the losers ; to be murdered or starved in prison was usually their fate. The uncles of the young Tzar were among the victims of the jealousy of his mother and of the factions of the Boyars. The only eminent man of that time who possessed any generosity, honesty, or honour was Ivan Belski, and he paid with his life the imprudence of not using like the rest the hour of victory to exterminate his foes. It may be supposed that, in such an atmosphere of intrigue and crime, but little was done for the education of the young Prince. Even Ivan Belski gratified all his whims : he was accustomed to noisy games and the chase as his chief pursuits ; encouraged to rush into the streets and knock over women and old men ; and allowed to amuse himself by throwing tame animals down the palace steps. After such exploits the rough Boyars would praise him for his boldness. His early favourites, Telepneff, Belski, and Vorontzoff were snatched from him and done to death, his tears being either laughed at or disregarded. He was ten years old when Vorontzoff, at a meeting of the Council in the palace, was torn from his arms by the Shouiskis and nearly killed in his presence. The Boyars treated him with a brutal

roughness, and an utter want of respect, especially the Shouiskis, who would lounge with their feet on a sofa in his presence. He was ever surrounded by a crowd of idle companions, who were taught to flatter him, give way to his every whim, and lead him into riotous mischief. He was diverted by buffoons and bear baiting, and indulged early in every physical excess. His heart was hardened, his morals uncared for, if not purposely corrupted, his manners brutalized, and his mind uninformed, unless a verbal acquaintance with Sacred Books, and a knowledge of ancient and Russian history, can be supposed a sufficient culture. Above all, he was accustomed to cruelty, and to disregard the feelings of others. As he grew older, he hated and despised all around him. The first exercise of his authority was certainly an act of justice in itself, but it was at the instigation of a faction ; it was illegally compassed, and needlessly cruel. When he was thirteen he was induced to assemble the Boyars, and arbitrarily condemn Prince Andrew Shouiski to punishment. The Prince was torn by dogs in the street. He had well merited punishment, but he was condemned without a trial, by one who had no legal rights as a minor to judge him. He was punished not for his crimes, but because a boy and his advisers hated him.

Ivan had received from nature strong passions, a

powerful imagination, and a mind more acute than profound. He was capable of great and noble actions, but he had never been taught mastery over himself. He was through life fond of exercising the gift of eloquence which he possessed, and fond also of writing long letters full of quotations from the Sacred Books, of which till his death he remained a diligent reader. He was only ten years of age when his letter, to the leaders of the army then defending the capital against the Khan, caused them to forget their differences and march to victory, and when his speech and bold conduct in the Council roused both the Boyars and the people to preparations for the defence of Moscow. Karamzin thus describes his personal appearance:— “He was tall of stature, well-built, high-shouldered, broad-breasted, had long hair and a full moustache, a Roman nose, and small grey eyes that were bold, piercing, and fiery.”

From the time that Ivan punished Prince Shouiski, the Glinskis ruled in his stead. In the year of Ivan’s marriage, Moscow was nearly destroyed by a succession of fires: the Tzar fled to the hills of Vorobiòff, and the people broke out in revolt. This event, however, caused an entire change in Ivan. The Priest Sylvester sought him out, and bitterly reproached him with his neglect of all the duties of a sovereign. The good Priest was seconded by Anastàsia. Ivan openly

confessed his fault in allowing the injustice and oppression of the Boyars, publicly asked his people's pardon, and promised to protect them for the future. The Glinskis were deprived of the power they had abused, but there were no cruel punishments. A new era now set in, which lasted twelve years, till the fall of Sylvester after the death of Anastasia. The change was sudden, but it was entire ; and, that it may be seen what the young Tzar had already threatened to become, I will relate his treatment, the year of his marriage previous to the fires, of a deputation that came to complain of the Governor of a District. The Tzar would not listen to them ; raged against them ; shouted and stamped ; poured hot wine over them ; singed their beards and hair ; and had them stripped naked and placed on the ground. Sudden news of the fall of a great bell at Moscow alone saved them from death. It is impossible not to admit Ivan's own argument to the assembled Clergy three years later. He described the sufferings of the *widowhood* of Russia, during his orphanhood and youth at first innocent and then dissipated. He spoke with tears of the death of his uncles, and of the disorders of the Boyars, whose bad example had corrupted his heart. He prayed all men to forget the past. The following from a sovereign of twenty-one, educated as he had been, promised much for the future. He called on the Clergy to help him,

and not to spare his sins, but to reproach his weakness : “ Thunder in mine ears the voice of God, and my soul shall live.”

During the twelve years which the change wrought by Sylvester lasted, Ivan was truly the father of his people. He protected them from the oppression of the Boyars, and gave them the right of electing Elders and others, who both in the towns and districts had authority independent of the Nobles. He introduced a new code with many beneficial changes, he regulated many abuses in the Church, and he did more than had ever been done before him for education. He strove to develope commerce and to connect Russia with the rest of Europe. He protected the introduction of printing, he encouraged foreign workmen to settle in Russia, and, above all, he himself minutely superintended the administration of justice. He sent his secretaries all over Russia to see that his intentions were strictly carried out, and, choosing them for personal merit out of the lower ranks of the priests and the people, he forced the pride of his Waywodes and Boyars to bow before these messengers of his will and his justice. He could not altogether eradicate the evils of those continual disputes about place and precedence which had so long prevailed to the public detriment, but he did much to alleviate the evil by introducing the custom of “ not counting places ” when

the exigencies of the public service brought one of a higher into contact with one of a lower rank. The activity which he displayed is incredible. The number of petitions sent to him on all possible matters, and of which he invariably personally disposed, is beyond account. His private life was no less altered than his public conduct ; the palace became a model household for the whole kingdom. He chose his chief counsellors well : they were Sylvester and Adasheff. Sylvester never held any very high dignity, but Adasheff was placed in the Council, and became the Tzar's mouthpiece for foreign affairs. It was during this happy period of his reign that he conquered Kazan.

I shall not attempt to enter into the details of Ivan's administration ; it would be beyond my present purpose : but, to prove that the account I have given is not exaggerated, I will quote the evidence of eye-witnesses, of our own countrymen, who were attached to the English commercial company that Ivan so warmly welcomed. They wrote of him that he was “condescending to his subjects, and affable, and loved to talk to them, often gave them dinners in the palace, and, notwithstanding, knew how to be their master : He says to a Boyar, ‘Go,’ and the Boyar runs. There is no nation in Europe more devoted than the Russians to their Sovereign, whom they equally fear and love. Ever ready to listen to com-

plaints, and to help, Ivan goes himself everywhere, and decides all. He has but two ideas,—how to serve God, and how to destroy the enemies of Russia."

It was in 1558 that Anastàsia died, when Ivan was twenty-eight years of age ; but, in order to understand the sudden change that followed, we must go back a little. In 1553 Ivan fell ill of a fever, and his life was despaired of. He assembled the Boyars round his bed, and called on them to take an oath to his son Demètri, an infant who died shortly after. They all refused his repeated requests, except Zachàrin-Yòureff and a few more. Zachàrin was one of those who had most to expect from Demètri's succession, being brother to the Tzaritza, but he appears to have acted from disinterested motives. Vladìmir Andrèitch, Ivan's cousin, almost openly intrigued for the succession, and most of the Boyars favoured his claims. Both Sylvester and Adasheff appear to have had a leaning towards Vladìmir. Adasheff pleaded to Ivan that the Boyars feared the government of Demètri's uncles. There was an evident purpose of setting aside the Tzar's son in favour of his cousin. Ivan recovered, and acted as if it had passed from his mind ; but it could not be expected that he should forget or forgive it. He treated Vladìmir with honour and apparent kindness ; but his vengeance sixteen years later showed what he had really felt, while Vladimír in the interval

had done nothing to incur his anger. Henceforth he was ever impatient of the ascendancy of Sylvester and Adasheff, and this feeling was shared by Anastàsia, who could not forgive those that had been willing to spoil her son of his inheritance. Another circumstance contributed to embitter Ivan's mind against his favourites and the Boyars. He went to return thanksgivings for his recovery at the Monastery of Cyril on the White Lake. On the journey he saw a former Bishop, one Bassiànus, who had been a favoured counsellor of his father. This man hated the Boyars, who had compassed his worldly ruin, and did his best to stir up the Tzar against them, telling him "to have no counsellor wiser than himself." Kourbski, who knew Ivan, and who has left valuable historical records, ascribes much of the evil that followed to the influence of this crafty advice. While Ivan was thus ripe for throwing off the restraint of the guidance under which he had accomplished so much, and still dreamed only of showing that he could reign alone, the link that bound him to virtue snapped. Anastàsia died. The blow was fatal. It was his love for Anastàsia that had chiefly strengthened the remorse he felt when Sylvester showed him the ashes of his capital which he had abandoned in the hour of need. It was his love for Anastàsia that had strengthened remorse into effective repentance, that inspired him with the wish

to distinguish himself as the regenerator of his people. His illness had loosened his friendships, and made him suspect his counsellors, and they still continued to decide boldly for him. His growing coldness was observed; flatterers told him they were hypocrites; and while he, in the despair of his loss, was meditating forgetfulness of it in debauch, Sylvester ever required from him moderation even at table. Such a struggle could not last long. Adasheff and Sylvester retired from the Court within two years after Anastasia's death, and were soon after accused of having caused it by magic, and condemned without a hearing.

Riotous games, dissipation, and drinking now again prevailed at Court. All Adasheff's friends were ruined and banished, and Ivan began that series of bloody punishments of which Karamzin has detailed six different eras in his reign. An imprudent word was punished by death, and Prince Obolenski was the first of the numerous victims whom Ivan murdered with his own hand. Prince Repneen, seeing Ivan drunk in a mask among buffoons and revellers, asked him with tears if it became a Tzar to be a buffoon, and he was killed shortly after, by Ivan's order, while praying at the altar. Ivan was sensible of his turpitude. He would at times bewail his sins, and speak of resigning his crown, and seeking repentance in the Monastery of Cyril.

Eight days after Anastàsia's death, Ivan announced his intention of seeking another wife, but it was not till the third year after that he married again. His new bride was an Asiatic, and half a savage, and the little influence she possessed was exerted for the worse : she encouraged his excesses and his cruelty. His Nobles now began to desert him, and among the rest, Kurbski fled into Livonia. Several letters passed between Ivan and him, and their nature may be gathered from the Play itself, which faithfully renders their correspondence. In 1564, the agitation of Ivan's mind made him retire to Alexàndroffski Slobòda, and he intended to abdicate. At the prayers of the Clergy and the Boyars he returned, but on condition that the Clergy should not remonstrate against his punishment of traitors. The next year not a hair was left on his head, from the turmoil of his passions and his remorse.

He now formed the Opritchina, a regiment of body guards, who for seven years were the terror of Russia. The word means exceptional, privileged. They all took an oath of blind obedience to the Tzar, and they were rewarded with large estates, and the privilege of robbing and oppressing, nay, of slaying the people at their will. They rode with dogs' heads and brooms at their saddles, to show that they would bite the Tzar's enemies and sweep Russia. Ivan, after a revel,

would mount his horse, call his Opritchina round him, and sally forth to dishonour women, torture men, and burn and rob. These troops were beyond the reach of any law, and the following was a common practice among them when they ran short of funds for their extravagance and debauchery. They concealed one of their servants in a merchant's or a Noble's house, and then went with the police to find their pretended runaway thrall. The victim, on the plea that he had given shelter, either paid a large sum or was publicly flogged.

Ivan henceforth lived chiefly at Alexàndroffski Slobòda, for he did not think himself safe at Moscow. The place, which had become a town, was surrounded by troops, and no one could leave or enter without the Tzar's special order. There he led the life of a monk. He chose three hundred of the Opritchniki for his *brothers*; he himself was their Abbot, Skouratoff was the bell-ringer. They wore cassocks over their brilliant court dresses. Ivan's time passed in devotion and the study of sacred books. His forehead bore the marks of his fervent prayers. This strange life was diversified by evening debauches, and by periods of punishment, during which his most faithful servitors perished by cruel deaths. His cousin Vladimir, with his wife and children, under pretence of having suborned a cook to poison him, were forced

to drink poison in his presence, and he stood by to watch their dying agonies. As his tyranny grew more uncontrolled, so did his suspicions augment, and he actually wrote to Elizabeth asking her to give him an asylum if revolt should drive him into exile. Much as he was feared, however, he had in reality nothing to fear himself. The conspiracies which he punished existed only in his own fevered imagination. The nation did not even hold him responsible for his crimes : they looked upon his tyranny as a proof that God was wrath with them for their sins. Ivan in their eyes was but the instrument. A Boyar, who was impaled, never ceased, for twenty-four hours, to call on God to pardon the Tzar. A Waywode, who came to speak to him while at table, had his ear sliced off by Ivan's knife, and, without moving a muscle, wished the Tzar long life, and thanked him for the mildness of the punishment.

In 1569 his cruelty reached a point little short of madness. The towns of Novgorod and Pskoff were disliked by him, because they still retained a remembrance of their independence and a traditional ill-will to Moscow. There were still living witnesses of the last Vetch, or national assembly, at Pskoff ; at Novgorod they still talked of past victories over the Muscovite. Tver had been an independent principality, but in that province there reigned none even of that

harmless jealousy which animated the townsmen of Novgorod the Great and of Pskoff. Ivan, however, resolved to exterminate the treason which his fears supposed. He marched with the Opritchina into the province of Tver, and caused them to ravage both towns and country. It was a scene of indiscriminate murder and pillage. He next went to Novgorod, and there for five weeks pillaged and destroyed the town and all the country round, tormenting, slaying, and drowning all classes alike. The victims numbered 16,000. Here, as at Tver, female honour was outraged wherever a woman was found, and neither the age nor infancy of either sex was spared. The Opritchniki, on this bloody raid, put to death every one they met on the road, that the Tzar's journey might remain secret ; and Skouratoff was despatched to murder in his cell Philip, the Metropolitan, who had been previously disgraced for having bravely reproached Ivan with his crimes. Pskoff, however, escaped. Ivan marched there with the intention of repeating his butcheries, but when he heard, the night before his entry into the town, from a neighbouring Monastery, all the bells of the churches in the town calling the population to prayers, his heart was touched, and the submission with which, on the morrow, the inhabitants of every house offered him bread and salt as he passed, is said to have turned his wrath aside.

On Ivan's return to Moscow the reign of terror continued. Instruments of execution and torture were erected on one of the public places, and on one occasion two hundred victims perished. Ivan sent his Opritchniki to force the people out of their cellars and hiding-places, that they might witness his justice. Skouratoff was the leading spirit of all these executions, and many of the most execrable acts of cruelty are ascribed particularly to him. This wretch met with an honourable death on the field of battle, and, though most of the Tzar's early favourites perished in their turn, he to the last was in favour at Court. Men were now roasted in stoves made for the purpose, they were flayed, their flesh was torn from them with pincers, and large strips were cut out the whole length of the spine.

Ivan, meanwhile, when not at his devotions, continued to delight in bearbaiting and buffoons. He would let loose a bear or two among the crowd who assembled, and always rewarded handsomely those who had been mangled, for the laughter they had afforded him. Those who jested with him often paid with their lives for an untimely joke, and after stabbing an offender he would continue the revel. The miseries of Russia were increased by plague and famine.

Worse, however, awaited the country. The con-

queror of Kazan had forgotten his early valour ; distrust so mastered him, that he would neither send his armies nor lead them himself against a foreign foe. In 1571 the Khan appeared before Moscow, and fired the town. The Kremlin alone escaped, and Karamzin relates that 800,000 perished in the flames. The Khan is said to have made 100,000 prisoners. The Tzar had fled ignominiously to Yaroslaff, and he ultimately acceded to dishonouring conditions. This, like all his disasters, was made the pretext for punishments. His doctor, one Boumelli, taught him another mode of despatching his victims : those whom he had doomed now perished by poison. Boumelli himself was ultimately burned at Moscow.

Vorotinski now saved Russia by defeating the Khan ; Lithuania and Poland were without a king by the death of Sigismund, and Ivan was for a time triumphant. He dissolved the Opritchina, but his punishments still continued, though, apparently through lassitude, on a somewhat smaller scale. It was about this period (1572) that Boris Godunoff began to rise in his favour. Godunoff was descended from one of the Tartar Moorzas, or Princes, who in the fifteenth century had assisted the great grandfather of Ivan, Vasili the Dark, so called from his having been blinded in the long civil war against his cousins. Many of these Princes had large territories and even towns assigned

them, and some of them embraced the Greek faith : among the latter class were the ancestors of Godundoff. The character of Boris is described by Karamzin exactly as Count Tolstoi has drawn it. Godundoff at first was merely one of Ivan's squires, but he soon obtained the intimacy of the Tzar, while contriving to take no part in his cruelties nor his debauches. At the third marriage of Ivan he was groomsman to the new Tzaritza, and when the Tzarèvitch Fedor married his sister, in 1580, he was made a Boyar. In 1578, one of those frequent quarrels about precedence arose between Godundoff and Prince Seètski, and the Tzar decided that Godundoff was higher by many ranks. The losing party in such disputes was sometimes punished by imprisonment, and sometimes obliged, by way of humiliation, to go and stand in the court of his adversary's house till the latter came out, and, going with him to the Tzar, gave thanks for the judgment. It is to this latter form of sentence that Saltikoff makes allusion in the first scene of the Play.

Between the years 1571 and 1580, Ivan was married five times, his seventh wife being the Maria of the Play. Such repeated marriages were contrary to the canons of the Greek Church, and most of them were contracted without the consent of the Clergy. One of his wives appears never to have been styled Tzaritza, and on another occasion the whole ceremony

consisted of an oath taken by the parties. His last wife, however, was regularly wedded and acknowledged, yet, before her child was born, he was already negotiating for the hand of Lady Hastings. Hume says that that lady had too much care for her peace to consent, but Karamzin speaks of no objections on her part.

On the death of Sigismund, the crown of Poland was offered to Ivan, but he insisted on its being made hereditary, and Henry of Anjou was elected. Within a few months he fled from Warsaw to become Henry III. of France, and, after long contentions, Stephen Bathòry became king of Poland in 1576. The following year Bathòry began his victorious campaigns in Livonia, which, since the fall of the Teutonic knights, in 1561, had become the chief prize of Polish and Russian ambition. In a few months Bathòry had taken twenty-four towns: his success was ultimately stopped by the defence of Pskoff, and in 1582 the war closed by Ivan giving up Livonia. During this war Ivan sounded the very depths of degradation. He shut himself up in Slobòda, and wrote vaguely to his generals to act for the good of the country. Vacillation, weakness, and even cowardice, were shown by many of the Russian leaders. Disgraceful conditions of peace were accepted. The Tzar ordered his envoys to bear every insult, and even

to put up with blows. The national honour was further humiliated by the Swedes taking Narva, or Naròva, as it was then called. All this was borne with while Ivan was still at the head of armies amply sufficient to have maintained his former military fame. The people believed that he was under the influence of a magic charm. Stories have been handed down of voices in the air, and of stones falling from heaven with mysterious inscriptions on them.

In the midst of all this ruin and disgrace the punishments still continued, and at last Ivan completed his crimes by raising his hand against his eldest son. Ivan, the Tzarèvitch, had been early accustomed to the same cruelty and debauchery in which his father wallowed, and promised to leave a name no less detestable. He had assisted his father in torturing and murdering his victims, and especially taken an active part in the horrors of Novgorod. He was not, however, without some good qualities: he was brave and self-reliant, showed considerable parts, and was animated by a generous love of fame. Patriotism was not dead in him. During the negotiations for the peace with Bathòry, indignant at the terms offered, and that the troops who might have saved his country should be idly watching the siege of Pskoff, roused probably by the heroism of Ivan Shouïski's defence, he went to his father and de-

manded that he should be sent to drive off the enemy. Ivan struck him in his rage, as described in the piece, and wounded Godunoff, who tried to restrain him. The Tzarèvitch lived only four days. Ivan, when he saw his son's blood, gave way to the wildest remorse ; he sat for days beside the body without food or sleep. Karamzin thus describes the scene of the burial at Moscow :—“ Void of all the signs of royalty, in a mourning dress, with the air of a simple and despairing sinner, he threw himself on the grave, on the ground, with a piercing cry.” He would afterwards jump from his bed at night in terror, as if he saw some spectre, wander over the rooms of his palace, fall on the ground and roll there, shout and weep, and only cease from exhaustion. He intended to resign, and yielded, as described in the Play, to the entreaties of the Boyars. Will it be believed that he succeeded in quieting his conscience, and chiefly by giving large sums that masses might be read for the repose of his son's soul ? The account given in the Play of the circumstances of his death agrees with history ; both the appearance of the Court and the prediction of the wizards are facts. One of his last occupations was to look over his treasures, and he died while playing a game of chess. The part taken by Godunoff in his death is due to the dramatist. His illness was of a fearful nature : all his flesh began

to putrify, and his whole body to swell. He had reigned fifty years. He died in 1584.

Karamzin gives the following summary of Ivan's character :—“ He boasted of firmness over himself, because he could laugh aloud in the hour of fear and trouble ; of mercy and generosity, while bestowing on his favourites the fortunes of disgraced Boyars and citizens ; of justice, while punishing with equal delight for services and crimes : he boasted of the spirit of a king, and the upholding of royal honour, while ordering an elephant, sent from Persia to Moscow, to be killed because it would not bend its knee to him, and while cruelly punishing the unfortunate courtiers who dared to play better than their sovereign at chess or cards : he boasted also of profound wisdom in statecraft, while he systematically, at different times, rooted out whole families supposed dangerous to the royal power.”

Karamzim, however, gives the reverse of the medal, and, as it would be too long to give it all, I have put together the leading points. In foreign policy he followed his grandfather Ivan III. He liked justice, often decided suits himself ; he punished those who oppressed the people ; never suffered drunkenness among them, only at Easter or Christmas ; and was no friend to gross flattery. He broke a stick to splinters over Prince Borateènski, who lyingly pre-

tended that Bathòry trembled at his name. He was tolerant of all creeds but the Jewish, was fond of religious disputes, and suffered contradiction. He protected learned foreigners, and did much for education by establishing clerical schools, in which laymen were taught reading and writing, law and history.

It will be observed that Godundòff throughout Count Tolstoi's piece plays an important part, and that at the close he remains completely master of the situation. This agrees with his after career. During the whole reign of Feòdor it was Godundòff who governed Russia, and he governed justly and wisely. On Feòdor's death the dynasty of Rurick became extinct, and Godundòff was elected Tzar. His reign was not a happy one, for, jealous of the Boyars, he became a tyrant. During the reign of Feòdor the young Tzarevitch Demètri had been murdered at Ouglitch, and the crime is attributed to Godundòff, though no direct proofs exist. A man named Beetiagòffski was one of the assassins. Had Godundòff lived longer, he would have been deposed and murdered, as his son was, by an impostor calling himself Demètri. There was, after this, a long period of anarchy, during which another false Demètri arose: it ended with the elevation of the family of Romànov to the throne.

Without some explanation the word *Zemstvo* will

probably not be understood by those who are unacquainted with the details of the administration in Russia. The word now represents Assemblies of the Rural Proprietors, being derived from *Zemlià*, land, earth. During the period of the Opritchina, the Tzar took to himself a large number of the most important towns, and a whole quarter of the capital : these were governed by his own specially appointed Dignitaries, and the rest of the country was called *Zemstchina*, and was governed by the Boyars, who sat in the *Zemstvo*, with whom the Tzar called to it the *Okolnitchi*, Dignitaries, Treasurers, and Secretaries, Nobles of the first and second degree, and even *Poméstchiks* (landed proprietors), and merchants. When the Opritchina was dissolved, in 1572, the Council of the Boyars again resumed their former functions, and the *Zemstvo* again became a Provincial Assembly.

In conclusion, I have but little to say in my own behalf. The measure employed by Count Tolstoi I have fortunately been able exactly to render, for it is that of our ordinary blank verse. Perhaps, on the whole, the Russian is more strictly iambic, and there is a more frequent use of the redundant final syllable. The Play has an admirable mixture in the original of archaic forms. I shall, perhaps, be criticised for the use of familiar terms, as when Ivan says, "A dream

that's nicked it," and when the Cornchandler exclaims, "Get out of that!" In using these expressions, I have certainly followed the Russian. In the last instance quoted it seems to me required by the nature of the scene, and as regards Ivan, though he was fond of high-sounding words and long eloquent speeches, when roused to anger he was short and coarse. I have retained the Russian patronymics, and given the names as nearly as possible according to the Russian forms, with a few exceptions, such as Boyar, but the word has been too long naturalized with an English plural for me to venture on Boyär. The Russian accent is often apparently so arbitrary to an English reader, that the names have been printed with accents. It will be observed that the patronymics are lengthened or shortened at pleasure, and that even names vary. For instance, the *eo* in Feodor is pronounced sometimes as one syllable, sometimes as two; in the latter case the accent has been placed on the *o*. Again, Maria is sometimes *Marià* and sometimes *Mària*.

St. PETERSBURG, *March, 1869.*

RULES FOR PRONUNCIATION OF RUSSIAN WORDS.

i like the English *ee*.

a and *o* broad, as in *father* and *pore*.

è or *é* like *a* in *fate*.

ou or *u* like *oo*.

oui form one syllable, sounded *oo*.

ia also form one syllable, with the consonant sound of *y* for *i*.

ë as *o* broad, with the sound of *y* before it, so as to form one syllable.

j like the consonant sound of *y*.

sj like *g* in *contagious*, but without the sound of *d*, that is, like the French *j* in *jardin*.

x as if the *ch* in *echo* were aspirated, and not with the sound of *k*.

ch has the sound given to *x*.

The different unaccented forms of the Russian plural are rendered by *i*.

E R R A T A.

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Page xxvii, line 22—for “appearance of the <i>Court</i> ,” read “of the <i>Comet</i> .” | |
| “ 3, “ 8—for “ <i>are</i> eldest,” | read “ <i>art</i> .” |
| “ 9, “ 5—Saltikoff speaks, not <i>Nagot</i> . | |
| “ 24, “ 13—for “ <i>that thou art</i> ,” | read “ <i>thou that art</i> .” |
| “ 26, “ 18—for “ <i>No Presbyterian I.</i> ” | read “ <i>No Presbyter am I.</i> ” |
| “ 27, “ 11&14 for “ <i>see'st</i> ,” | read “ <i>seest</i> .” |
| “ 27, “ 19—for “ <i>to the end</i> ,” | read “ <i>to the end</i> .” |
| “ 81, “ 1, in song, for “ <i>gall</i> ,” | read “ <i>pal</i> .” |
| “ 88, “ 5—for “ <i>Wizard</i> ,” | read “ <i>Wizards</i> .” |
| “ 90, “ 5—for “ <i>forsake'st</i> ” | read “ <i>forsak 'st</i> .” |
| “ 95, “ 18—for “ <i>who took</i> ,” | read “ <i>who to</i> .” |
| “ 99, “ 13—for “ <i>twin all</i> ,” | read “ <i>turn all</i> .” |
| “ 124, “ 9—for “ <i>Were now</i> ,” | read “ <i>Are now</i> .” |
| “ 42, “ 5—add <i>comma</i> after “ <i>with her</i> .” | |
| “ 42, “ 18—put <i>comma</i> for point after “ <i>easily</i> .” | |
| “ 88, “ 12—add <i>comma</i> after “ <i>A holy man that</i> .” | |
| “ 40, “ 17 and 18—read { “ <i>Naturally, that for my guidance I.</i> ” | “ <i>thou thinkest</i> , |
| “ 40, “ 20 read—“ <i>B' my side, is't not? to blame</i> . . .” | “ <i>for</i> . . .” |

| | |
|--|--|
| For <i>Kurbiski</i> , read <i>Koùrbski</i> , p. xviii. | |
| “ <i>Piatotsk</i> , read <i>Pòlotsk</i> , p. 24, 27, 71, 109. | |
| “ <i>Ivànvitch</i> , read <i>Ivànovitch</i> , p. 50. | |
| “ <i>Kieff</i> , read <i>Kieff</i> , Act IV., Scene I. | |
| “ <i>Smoleùsk</i> , read <i>Smoleusk</i> , p. 71. | |
| “ <i>Oboleùski</i> , read <i>Obolenski</i> , p. 105. | |
| “ <i>Feòdorovna</i> , read <i>Fèodorovna</i> , p. 57, 126. | |
| “ <i>Feòdor Ivanòvitch</i> , read <i>Fèodor Ivànovitch</i> , p. 144, line 2. | |
| “ <i>Feòdor</i> , read <i>Fèodor</i> , { p. 55, line 9. | |
| “ <i>Feòdor</i> , read <i>Fèodor</i> , { p. 90, line 2; p. 97, line 7. | |
| “ <i>Feòdor</i> , read <i>Fèodor</i> , { p. 98, line 20; p. 100, line 6. | |
| “ <i>Feòdor</i> , read <i>Fèodor</i> , { p. 108, line 3, 4; p. 110, line 11. | |

NOTE.

These errors have arisen through the impossibility of securing the author's corrections.

The Death of Ivan The Terrible.

THE
DEATH OF IVAN THE TERRIBLE.

"The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my majesty ?

"While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken ; The kingdom is departed from thee.

"And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field."—DANIEL iv: 30, 31, 32.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

The Tzar Ivàn Vasilevitch (Ivàn IV.)

The Tzaritza Maria Feòdorovna, *born Nagoi, his seventh wife.*

The Tzarèvitch Feòdor Ivànovitch, *his son by his first wife.*

The Tzarèvna Ireèna, *wife of Feòdor, sister of Godundoff.*

Prince Mstislàffski,

Zachàrin-Yòureff, *brother of the Tzar's first wife,*

Prince Shòuiski,

Bèlski,

Prince Stcherbàti,

Prince Gol'tzin,

Prince Troubetakòi,

Prince Seètaki,

Sheremètieff,

Tateèstcheff,

Saltikòff,

Michael Nagòi, *brother of the Tzaritza Maria Feòdorovna,*

Boris Godundoff, *brother-in-law of the Tzarèvitch Feòdor,*

Members of the Council of the
Bojars.

Messenger from Pakoff.

Maria Gregorevna, wife of Godunoff,
Gregori Godunoff, a relation to Boris,
Gregori Nagdi, second brother of the Tzaritsa
Maria Fedorovna,

Okolnitchi (Officers of the palace
attached to the
person of the
Tzar).

Garabourda, Envoy of Stephan Bathory (King of Lithuania and
Poland).

Beetiagoffski,
Kekeen, } Nobles.

Anchorite (a hermit monk who has taken strict vows).

Nurse of the Tzarévitch Demetri (the infant son of Iván by the
Tzaritsa Maria Fedorovna).

Steward of the Kremlin Palace.

Steward of Alexandroffski Sloboda (a country residence of the
Tzar Iván).

Steward of Godunoff.

1st Wizard.

2nd Wizard.

Elms,
Jacobi. } Doctors.

1st Preestaff,
2nd Preestaff, } Officers of the Police of the time.

Fool.

Butler.

The Chief of the Strelitzes.

The Centurion of the Strelitzes.

Stolneek (a Noble who waits at the Tzar's table).

Cornchandler.

Servant of Prince Shuiski.

Boyars, Okolnitchi, Body Guards, Strelitzes, People, Bufoons,
Servants.

The scene is laid at Moscow, in the year 1584.

THE

DEATH OF IVAN THE TERRIBLE.

ACT I.

SCENE I.—*Before the curtain rises, noise and quarrelling heard on the stage. The Hall of the Boyars disclosed. On benches along the walls, arranged in the form of a room, are seated the Boyars. On the middle bench are Prince Mstislàffski, Zachàrin-Yòreff, Bèlski, and the other elder Boyars; on the side-benches are the younger ones; at the end of the side-bench, on the left, to the front of the stage, sits Boris Godunòff; on the right, opposite Godunòff, Michael Nagòi, holding Saltikòff by the collar, is trying to pull him from his place.*

Nagòi. A Tzar's wife's brother I, no Saltikòff
Shall have my place !

Saltikòff. Off, losel, off ! The father
Of him begat thee did my grandsire serve
As trenchedman and follower !

Nagòi. 'Tis false !
A Saltikòff ne'er had a follower !
Wast not clept Boyar, e'en that with Golitzin
Didst Pòlotsk to the King surrender ?

Golitzin. No,

'Tis a lie ! I but the outskirts guarded,
And in the town itself held out Stcherbàti.

Stcherbàti. Well, what ? Held out ! And in that holding out

Within twelve days we seven assaults beat off,
And, hadst thou standing kept within the suburbs,
Succour from Sòkol had come up to us,
And we had held in grasp the rear-caught King.

Golitzin. Am I to blame that during three whole days

The succour wrangled who should lead the march ?

(*Nagòi continues to dispute with Saltikòff.*)

Nagòi. The Tzar's wife's brother I ! I at the wedding

The cake of royalty did foremost bear.

Saltikòff. And I the dish whereon the golden goblet.

My father was Grand-Armourer ; and thine,
What was he ? Great the honour that thou art
By the seventh wife a brother to the Tzar !

Nagòi. My sister, the Tzaritza, scold her not.

Saltikòff. I do not scold her. Yet she is not less
The seventh and not the first Tzaritza.

Go to, thou brother of a Tzar ! Hast counted
All the wives' brothers of our Tzar ?

Zachàrin.

O, Boyars !

What are ye doing ? Mind ye where ye are !

Unseemly thus to act !

Nagòi. The Tzar precedence
And right of ancestry shall judge betwixt us.
Saltikòff. Go, plead to him, and he will make thee come
To bow before me.

Mstislàffski. O, Boyars, forbear !
Lo, I and Sheremetieff, higher than all,
Our places we dispute not.

Several voices. Higher than we !
By what proof are ye so ?

Zachàrin. Shame on ye, Boyars !
[To *Mstislàffski.*

Thou, Prince Ivàn Fedòdoritch, are eldest—
Quiet them !

Mstislàffski. But, Boyar, how to quiet them ?
They 've all gone mad ! See, with a *Mstislàffski*
They count them peers ! Were it not well to bid
The Deacon bring our Rank-Book's register ?

Zachàrin. No time this, prince, for registers !
Hear, Boyars ! [Steps forward.

Have ye forgotten why that we are here ?
Is 't possible ? and thus ? At such a time,
E'en when hot from the murder of his son,
The Tzar is torn by his remorse, and when
He hath resolved to shut him from the world,
And through his second son, Fedor, bids us,
By reason of his sickness, choose forthwith

The worthiest to his empire to succeed—
 When from all sides, meanwhile, the enemy
 Doth war upon the Russ—famine and plague around—
 At that same moment ye about your seats
 Are wrangling. Boyars, bethink yourselves !
 Now should we all stand steadfast, each for each,
 Aye ! nor let Russia perish ! Be ranks forgot !
 To our sad choice proceed we, self aside,
 And none count places !

Bèlski. Be it so, i'faith !

All. No places ! aye, no places !

Zachàrin. Prince Mstislàffski,
 Thou 'rt eldest—open thou the Council !

Mstislàffski. Boyars !

Ye all have heard what unto you just now
 Nikita Romanovitch hath said. Bitter
 Though be 't, the Tzar's will must we yield us to.
 Proceed we to the vote.

Shouïski. One moment, Boyar :
 Is that the last word of the Tzar ?

Mstislàffski. The last !
 In vain have we besought him. We were bid
 Our instant sentence to pronounce, and with
 The new Tzar come to him,

Troubetzki. A fearful time !

Golitzin. 'Tis not to be believed !

Mstislàffski. Nor true I deemed it,

'Till, stamping with his foot at us, he gave
Me order to assemble this our Council.

Shoriski. If such be then his will, I say so be it !

Stcherbati. Aye, Boyars ! if so, then are we powerless
To thwart him.

Sheremetieff. Powerless we are, in truth !

Tateestcheff (an old man). Come Easter it will
then be twenty years,

That the great Tzar bethought him, just as now ;
Fain was he to fling off from him his throne,
And to Sloboda went forth out of Moscow.

To riot 'gan the people ; we resolved
On going in a body to the Tzar,
T' entreat him. And we went. He met us roughly ;
Naught would he hear at first, but in the end
He hearkened to our prayers, and, going back
To Moscow, took again to him his kingdom.

Seetski. Aye ! and formed th' Opritchina. We 've
memories.

Tateestcheff. Bring not again, O God, those fearful
times !

But worse it had been still without the Tzar :
The people would have stoned us, and all Russia
Had been troubled ; the Tartars, and the Poles,
Aye, and the Germans, would have mastered us.
Amongst us then, agreement there was none.

Seetski. And now most enviably do we agree !

Shouiski. Where tends this speech of thine ?

[*To Tateestchess.*]

Tateestchess.

To that,

E'en now perhaps, as once before it happ'd,
The Tzar may be appeased.

Mstislaffski.

Nay, Boyar, nay,

The times have changed, and with them hath the Tzar,
He hath grown slack in body and in spirit ;
No mind against the Boyars turned as then :
Remorse 'tis now that drives him from his throne.

Belski. He eats not, drinks not, long hath known
no sleep ;

The parle, which he so secretly conducted
With England's Queen, there is no speech of more ;
Her Envoy begs an audience in vain.

Zacharin. Aye, he no longer is himself. Three
weeks

Before that act of sin, a letter wrote he
Unto the traitor, Kourbski, bitterly
Reproaching him, and answer he awaited
From Lithuania, quivering in his wrath ;
But now he naught remembers e'en of Kourbski,
And mild and merciful is he in speech.

Shouiski. 'Tis not for us the Tzar to guide. From
God
His anger and his grace. How think ye, Boyars ?
Proceed we to our choice ?

All. Proceed ! Proceed !

[*A silence.*

Mstislaffski. Whom choose we, Boyars ?

Nagòi. Whom else have to choose ?

If it needs must that we pass by Feddor,
Whom else is there, if not the Tzar's own son,
Demètri Ivànovitch ?

Mstislaffski. An infant ?

Nagòi. His mother, then, the Tzaritza, what of her ?
If of my sister you make small account,
Name her a Protector.

Saltikoff. Thyself, is 't not ?

Nagòi. Me, or my brother, 'tis the same ; we're both
Demètri's uncles.

Saltikoff. And we want no uncles.

Tateèstcheff. God keep us from 't ! The nonage we
remember

Of the Tzar Ivan. From the Tzar's uncles
May God deliver us !

Shouiski. Forbid it, heaven !

Zachàrin. Aye, God forbid ! We need a puissant
Tzar,

And not a tutor o'er our king !

Mstislaffski. In sooth !

Ivàn Vasilitch hath himself prescribed
That we should make our choice from out ourselves.

Sheremetieff. Then whom to choose ?

Stcherbati. Whoever be your choice,
He needs to be of birth illustrious;
That all may bow before him.

Seetski. Not so, prince !
Let him that all outdoth in valour reign.
We have not far to seek him. Nikita
Romànovitch, Zachàrin is before you !

[*Talking.*]

By the imperial and blood-stained throne
He thirty years hath stood, upright and spotless.
By his bold words have thousand guiltless ones
Been saved not once, when o'er their heads already
Glittered the waving of the upraised axe.
Himself he spared not. Death he ever looked
Full in the eyes—and death, to us a marvel,
His honoured head passed by and never touched.
The course of his whole life is spread before you,
Stainless as is the plain when clad in snow.

Several voices. Zachàrin ! Zachàrin ! Nikita !
Romànovitch ! Zachàrin for our Tzar !

Troubetskoi (to Seetski). Who speaks 'gainst that ?

A Boyar upright !
None here dispraise him. For his services
We honour render him ; but his is not
A princely house—and under him no place
For us the posterity of Gèdimeen.

Shoùiski. Still less for us, of Rurick the descendants.

Golitzin. No, he's no prince—'neath him befits us not!

Saltikoff. No prince, 'tis true, but to the Tzar allied.

Nagòi. Not he alone. *We* to the Tzar are kin.

The seventh wife's brother thou, the first's—Zacharin.

Zachàrin. For my sake, Boyars, be there no dispute.

I thank thee for the honour done, Prince Seètski.

[*Saluting several.*

I thank you, also, Boyars, but I'd not
That honour have accepted, though ye all
Had wished for me, I'd still not taken it.

Boyars, a plain man I. God hath not given
To me the statecraft that should rule a kingdom ;
But if an honest counsel you would have,
There lives one who in right of ancestry
And services stands higher than us all.

The Boyar and the Waywode, Prince Ivàñ
Petròvitch Shoùiski, that 'till now holds out
In Pskoff against the King Bathòry—
Lo, this man take,—one whom to bow before
To none can be a subject of offence.

Sheremetieff. Shoùiski ? Impossible ! With all his
efforts
The fifth month still the king besieges Pskoff ?
And still the Waywode, Prince Ivàñ Petròvitch,

To death holds out the town, and he hath kissed
 To that the Cross, and his Drousjina* with him.
 God knows what time the siege may last ; while we
 One hour more cannot stay without a Tzar.

Shouïski. Then what remains ?

Metislàffski. Our way I see not, Boyars.

Shouïski. The Tzar our answer waits : we must
 • make end.

Zachàrin (to Godunòff). Boris Fedoritch, why to
 this moment

Hast thou not uttered word ? In hardest pass
 Thou oft hast brought us out of harm. Say, then,
 What thinkest thou ?

Godunòff (rising). Must I, my second father,
 Must I speak now, when issue from this business
 In vain do seek the very best of you ?
 But if you will that I should speak my mind,
 Then, Boyars, I will say.....

Several voices. Louder ! Louder !
 We cannot hear !

Godunòff. I should have thought that, Boyars.

Several voices. We hear not ! Louder !

Zachàrin. Why gottest thou a seat
 So far behind, and lower than all, Boris ?
 Or know'st thou not thyself thy proper place ?

* The Body-Guard of the Princes, formed of free warriors in
 their pay. The word is derived from "drouk," friend.

We cannot hear thee ! Come this way ; come nearer !

[*Takes him by the hand, and leads him to the middle bench.*

Here is the place where thou shouldst rightly sit.

Godunoff (bowing on all sides). Ye, the great sons of mighty ancestors !

And thou, whom I my father call, Nikita Romanovitch, my well-belovèd master !

I should not dare one word to utter here If by yourselves I were not bidden speak.

Saltikoff. Whither off now ?

Nagòi. Wagging his tail, the fox !

Saltikoff. And got himself not less into the middle.

Nagòi. Fear not, he sat from modesty behind.

Several voices. Hush ! Silence ! Peace there ! Listen to Godunoff !

Godunoff. 'Tis known unto you all, illustrious Boyars,

What times have now on Russia roughest come :

The King Bathòry town after town takes from us ;

Now master of Ousviat, Velisj, and Pòlotsk ;

Veliki-Loùki's walls are battered down,

And hallowed Pskoff, our ancient Russian city,

He hath with countless hosts assailed. Meanwhile

The Swede into Livonia hath broken,

And conquered there Ivàn-Goròd, Kopòri ;

Upon the east and south the Khan again

His hordes is raising ; a hundred thousand
Already march 'gainst Toula and Rezàn ;
Diseases, famine, plague—and worst of all,
The Tcheremèes in full revolt—do threat us !
Boyars, is 't possible, 'midst such disaster,
All Russia tottering round us to her fall
Thus mournfully, for us to change the Tzar ?
Granted, you find one to the very wish
Of this our Council, are ye sure the people
Will have him too ? Sure are ye that the country
Will be content ? But if should suddenly
Tumults begin, what, Boyars, then ? Is there
Among us strength of unity that we
Can foes within and foes without withstand,
Resisting them with front of bold accord ?

Great is the force of custom among men ;
Habit to them,—a scourge, aye, and a bridle ;
Whoever be th' hereditary ruler,
Him willingly do all obey ; and stronger
Is he in a tumultuous year than in
The quietest a newly-chosen Tzar.
Near half a century Ivàn Vasilitch
Doth reign o'er us. Anger and mercy oft
Have chased each other in that lengthened term,
But deep in all our hearts hath habit rooted
Obedience unconditional, and fear
E'en at the sound of that long-dreaded name.

Boyars ! that name a bulwark is for us.
 We hold by it alone. Long unaccustomed
 To think out for ourselves, act for ourselves,
 We form no longer an entire body ;
 That power which broke our own in fragments
 Binds us together, alone can bind us still :
 When strength is out, the body falls to dust.
 Our only chance of safety, Boyars, lies
 In going now, the whole assembled Council,
 T' th' Tzar at once, in falling at his knees,
 There to entreat him yet he give not up
 His throne, aye, that he yet save Russia.

Talking. T' th' point he speaks. Without Ivàn
 Vasilitch,

We 're lost ! Better at once to go to him.
 He is our lawful Tzar. Him we obey unshamed.
 Yes, let us go to him, th' assembled Council
 Beg him.

Seletschi. Boyars ! 'tis either that ye fear not God,
 Or ye 've forgotten who Ivàn Vasilitch.
 What are the Germans, or the Poles, or Tartars
 Compared to him ? Nay, what are plague and famine ?
 A fierce wild beast, naught else, the very Tzar.

Shouiski. What hath he said ? The Tzar he doth
 dishonour.

Metislàffski. Prince Peter Ilitch ! thy wits have left
 thee, then ?

Seetski. Not I, but thou, yes, all of ye are mad.
 Is there but one of you that hath not had
 A brother, or a father, or a mother,
 Relative or friend, to death done by him ?
 Boyars, to see you thus the heart is sick.
 I should not try to rouse you, if 'twere not
 That he himself would from his throne descend.
 Not worse than you the Holy Writings know I.
 I do not call you to revolt, but he
 Himself would cease to ruin and to slaughter,
 Would shave him monk, that Russia once awhile
 Might breathe again—while ye prepare yourselves
 To ask that he would slaughter as before.

Godunoff. Prince, of the Tzar to hear such speeches,
 we

Are minded not. Thou out of heat hast spoken.
 Informers there are none here to denounce thee.
 Here is my answer : no choice is left us.
 When two ills threaten, who can be in doubt
 To take the least ? which better ? Russia see
 I' th' hands of enemies, the Khan in Moscow,
 Our churches, all that we hold sacred outraged ;
 Or as before obediently to bear
 The yoke of God's appointed ? Can it be
 Our lives are dearer to us than our country ?
 And one word more : 'tis true that our great Tzar
 Hath been to us unmerciful and threatening ;

But now that time is passed : thou Prince, hast heard
 That humble-hearted he is grown no longer
 What he was, but merciful ; and if again
 He take on him the kingdom, not to the country,
 But to his foes alone, will he be fearful.

Voices. So will he ! He is right ! He speaks to
 th' point !

Seètski. Boyar, I know thou hast a wheedling
 speech ;

With crafty tongue thou hast the gift of gilding
 All that thou wilt. In truth thou fearest loss
 Of power when another in the place
 Of Tzar Ivàn shall wear the crown. Beware him,
 Boyars ! The soft bed will be hard to lie on.

Godunòff. Boyars, I take you all as witnesses
 That this reproach I have not merited.
 Ye know that power I have never sought ;
 I did but speak just now when asked by you.
 But, Boyars, I perhaps am in the wrong ;
 Prince Seètski older, wiser is than I ;
 If ye agree with him, then am I ready —
 To accept as Tzar Nikità Romanovitch,
 Or whom ye will.

Voices. No, we won't have Zachàrin !

Godunòff. Or, it may be, the Prince Mstislàffski,
 Boyars ?

Voices. No, none of him ! We are ourselves not less

Than is Mstislàffski !

Godunòff. Or take Shòùiski, Boyars ?

Voices. And him we want not ! We will not be under
A Shòùiski ! We will have the Tzar Ivàñ !

Seùtski. Go then ! Go all to him ! Go to the shambles,
Like the flock of sheep ye are ! For me
There is nothing left to do among you ! [Exit.]

Voices and cries. A rebel ! He insults th' entire
Council !

Defies us all ! A common brawler !

Godunòff. Let him not move your anger, Boyars !
He spoke but as he thought. If, in your wisdom,
On going in a body to the Tzar
Ye have resolved, let 's go, no need for loitering.

Zachàrin. But that our country totters in her
danger,
My wishes would not jump with such a step—
A risk too fearful now to shake the throne ;
Then go we to the Tzar : there is no other issue.

Mstislàffski. Who shall our spokesman be ?

Zachàrin. Boyar, thyself ;
Who else ? Thou art the eldest of us all.

Mstislàffski. I could not well. 'Tis but to-day the
Tzar

Already hath been wrath with me,

Voices. Shòùiski !

Let Shòùiski speak !

Shoùiski. 'Twould be no place for me.

Zachàrin. So please you, Boyars, I will be your spokesman !

His anger will not frighten me : I fear
But our country's ruin.

Godundoff. No, my father,
I will not let you run upon disgrace.
Let me unto the Tzar your speech pronounce :
I care not for myself.

Mstislàffski. Come ! Godundoff
Will speak for us ; he 'll phrase it best of all.

[*All the Boyars rise and follow Mstislàffski.*

Saltikoff (as he goes out to Golitzin).
Seètski was right though. See how Godundoff
Already looks as if he 'd climbed above us.

Golitzin. Sat lower than all, and in the end is
foremost.

Sheremetieff. And he 'twas said—no places !

Troubetskòi. Wait awhile,
And from our seats the Tartar soon will shake us.

[*Exuent.*

SCENE II.—*The Tzar's bedchamber. Ivàn, pale and exhausted in a black cassock, is sitting in an arm chair, beads in his hand. Near him, on a table, lies the Cap of Monomàch; on the other side, on a stool, are the royal vestments. Gregòri Nagòi is handing him a goblet.*

Nagòi. O Tzar ! one drop of wine thou 'lt drink,
One drop refuse not. Thou these many days
Dost wear thyself out. All this time thy lips
Have nothing touched.

Ivàn. The body needs no food
When the soul is fed on anguish. Henceforth
Remorse shall be my food.

Nagòi. O mighty Tzar !
Is 't true thou wouldst forsake us ? How will it
With the Tzaritza be ? with the Tzarèvitch
Thy Demètri ?

Ivàn. God will not forsake them.

Nagòi. But who can hold the reins of government
Except thyself ?

Ivàn. My mind's edge is blunted ;
My heart is faint ; my hands are powerless
To hold the reins ; already for my sins,
T' th' pagan God hath given victory,
Commanded me my throne that I give up
Unto another ; my iniquities

Are more than sands o' th' sea : a cannibal—
 Tormentor—lecher—church-profaner I :
 The boundlessness of God's long-suffering
 Have I exhausted by the last misdeed.

Nagòi. O Tzar! thou dost exaggerate thy sin ;
 Thy mind went not with it. Thou meantest not
 To slay the Tzarèvitch : thy staff by accident
 Did give the blow.

Ivàn. *Tis false ! I knowingly,*
 On purpose, of free will did slay him. Or
 Was I then mad, knew not where fell my blow ?
 No—I slew him purposely ! On his back
 He fell, bathed in his blood, aye, kissing
 These my hands ; and dying he forgave me
 My monstrous sin, but I forgive myself
 Such crime dare not.

(Speaks low.)

This very night to me
 Appeared he, beckoned me with bloody hand,
 And, pointing to a cowl, he waved me on
 With him along, unto the holy dwelling
 By the White Lake, ev'n there where lie the relics
 Of Cyril the Wonder-worker.

There loved I formerly alone to be
 At times from out the tempests of the world ;
 There loved I, far from every care, to think
 Of future rest, and the unthankfulness

Of man, and the malicious wiles of foes forgot ;
 Mournfully sweet it was to me within
 Some cell to rest me from the day's exertions,
 In evening hour to watch the clouds float by,
 Hear but the wind's sough, and the cries of gulls,
 And of the lake theplash monotonous,
 All silent there. There passions all forgotten.
 There will I take the cowl, and it may be
 By prayer, by life-long fasting and contrition,
 That I shall merit pardon of my curse.

[*A silence.*

Go thou, and learn the reason that so long
 Their conference lasts. Soon shall I know their
 sentence.

When come they with their Tzar ? I 'll lay on him
 At once the regal mantle and the crown !

[*Exit Nagòi.*

The end of all ! And hither am I brought
 Along the lengthened path of majesty.
 What have I met with on 't ? Sufferings alone.
 E'en from my youth but knowing of unrest,
 Now on the steed, amid the whistling shot,
 The heathen subjecting, now in the Council
 Struggling against the Boyars in revolt,
 I see behind me but a long-drawn line
 Of sleepless nights and troubled days.

I have not gracious to my people been—

No ! I had never mastery o'er myself.
 Father Silvester, my good old tutor,
 Would say to me, " Ivàn, take care ! In thee
 Satan would seat him. Open not thy soul
 To him, Ivàn." But I was deaf unto
 The holy agèd man, and oped my soul
 Unto the devil. No, no Tzar am I.
 A wolf ! a stinking cur ! a tyrant !
 My son I 've slain ! Cain's crime I have outpast !
 A leper I in soul and mind ! The sores
 That eat away my heart are countless !
 O thou, God Christ, heal me, and forgive me
 As thou the thief forgavest. Do thou cleanse me
 From my unheard-of foulness, and among
 The choir of the blessed count my soul.

[*Nagòi hurriedly returns.*

Nagòi. Great Tzar ! a messenger has just come in
 From Pakoff.

Ivàn. I am no longer Tzar—let him
 To the new one.

Nagòi. He says that from Prince Shouïski
 He brings glad tidings.

Ivàn. Well, let him enter !

[*Nagòi lets in the Messenger.*

Messenger. Great Tzar ! thy Waywode, Boyar
 Prince Ivàn,
 Petròvitch Shouïski, with all Pskoff's defenders,

Doth salute thee. Helped by thy fervent prayers,
 By intercession of the blessed saints,
 And might of th' Holy Cross, we 've beat off
 All assaults. The numbers of the enemy
 That fell were countless. In haste to Warsaw
 Went the King for aid, ordering his Waywodes
 To carry on the siege.

Ivàn. God be praised ! How was it ?

Messenger. Five weeks already
 Had they mined, dug trenches, and incessantly
 Poured shot upon the walls. Prince Sholiski bade
 To meet them mine with mine, and underground
 The miners met. A fearful combat raged ;
 Our troops contrived to fire the chamber ; they,
 Together with the Poles, were blown in air.
 Many of ours perished, but, praise to God,
 The enemy's works exploded all.

Ivàn. What next ?

Messenger. Seeing the failure of their mines, they
 drew
 The battering ordnance to the neighbouring hill,
 And towards the evening made a breach. At once
 Against it rolled we up our guns,—*Panther*
And Crackler,—and when they already rushed
 Into the breach with shouts, we round shot fired,
 And beat off their attack.

Ivàn. What next ?

Messenger.

By morning

A general assault the King commanded.
 We rang the siege bell, marshalled all our muster,
 Around the ancient walls with banners flying
 And with prayer carried the sacred relics
 Of Vsevolod, and then the Poles awaited.
 A murmur hoarse spread round, as if a storm
 Were coming on.....We met their headlong rush
 At every scarp, the outposts, then the walls,
 The buttresses, the ruins of the breach, the tower ;
 We cast upon them earth-pots powder filled,
 Stones, beams, and burning flax.....Already they
 Came slacker. Suddenly the King was in
 The midst of them, himself led the Drousjini.
 And they, as waters roar against a rock,
 Once more in strength poured on. In vain our hal-
 berds

Beat them off : into the tower of Svinar
 The Lithuanians swarmed ; like ants they crept up ;
 New bands crept after them ; long held we out ;
 But in the end.....

Ivan. Well ?

Messenger. In the end they broke us
 And the tower mastered !

Ivan. So 'twas for this
 Ye kissed the Cross. Ye breakers of your oaths !
 Ye sons of those sold Christ ! What did Shouiski ?

Messenger. The Prince Ivàn Petròvitch, seeing that The enemy had filled the tower, seized A lighted torch, and with his own hand cast it Into the vault. With one loud clap the tower Flew up in air, and with a hail of stones Strewed far around the Lithuanian posts.

Ivàn. At last ! What then ?

Messenger. That was the last assault. The King left Pskoff, giving unto Zamòiski The command of the siege.

Ivàn. Now praise to God ! I see that His Almighty Providence Doth watch o'er me. How now, King ? Didst not think To rival thee with me, with me, a monarch By God's grace, that thou art King by favour Of Polish Pans ? Let's see how thou wilt bruise Thy head in butting 'gainst the walls of Pskoff. How many Lithuanians fell ?

Messenger. The score Gave near five thousand killed, and twice as many Wounded.

Ivàn. What, King ? My payment, likes it thee For Pàlotsk and Velisj ? How many killed Of theirs when ye were first invested ?

Messenger. They, In five assaults, had twenty thousand killed,

And we lost seven.

Ivàn. Enough were left of you,
Enough for five shocks more. [Enter a *Stòlneek*.

Stòlneek. Great Tzar !

Ivàn. What now ? Is their consulting over ?
[The *Stòlneek* gives *Ivàn* a letter.

Stòlneek. A soldier, made prisoner by the enemy,
Hath brought for thee a letter back, great Tzar.

Ivàn. Give here ! [To *Nagòi*.
Read it, *Gregòri*.

[Exit *Stòlneek*.

Nagòi (*opens it and reads*). To the Tzar
Of all the Russias, to Ivan, from Andrew
Prince, son of Prince Michael.....

Ivàn. What ? What ?

Nagòi. From Andrew
Prince, son of Prince Michael, Kourb.....

Ivàn. From Kourbski
Ha ! To my letter he, out of his grace,
Doth deign an answer send.

[To *Messenger*.

Begone !

[To *Nagòi*.

Read on !

Nagòi. But Tzar.....

Ivàn. Read on.

Nagòi. Kourbski; thy sometime subject,

And holding now, under the Polish crown,
The principality of Kovel, sends
Thee greeting. Hearken to my words.....

Ivan.

Well, what?

Nagdi. I dare not venture, Tzar.

Ivan.

Read on.

Nagdi (*continuing to read*). Thy doltish
And idly-babbling waste of sheets I 've read,
And have conceived thee. Higher than the stars
Of heaven lifting thee in pride, yet lower
Thyself abasing than the Pharisee,
Dost thou of treason that was never wrought
Accuse us. Thy words, O Tzar, worth.....laughter...
And thy reproaches.....

Ivan. Well? "And thy reproaches?"

Nagdi. And thy reproaches — tales of drunken
wives.

To write in such a coarse and shambling style
Should shame thee, to a foreign land where men
Are oftentimes not unskilled in rhetoric.
This thine unasked confession of thyself
Is out of place in, and offends mine ear.
No Presbyterian I, but as a soldier
Serve my sovereign, the High and the Most Noble
Stephan, Grand Duke of Lithuania,
O'er the nobility of Poland King.
God's blessing on our arms, already we

Have ta'en from thee Velisj, Ousviat, and Pàlotsk,
 And well we hope shall soon be taken Pskoff.
 Where now are all thy by-gone victories ?
 Where now are all the wise and gifted men
 That took for thee, at risk of life and limb,
 Many a fort, and 'neath thy feet Kazan
 And Astrachan subjected ? They are all
 Killed, massacred, and tortured, and by thee !
 Thines armies, left without good captains, like
 A flock of sheep that have the shepherd lost,
 Flee from before us. See'st not, O Tzar,
 How little all thy fools and thy buffoons
 Avail thee in the place of tortured chiefs ?
 See'st thou now, that dancing at the Masks
 And dealings with the Goddess Aphrodite
 Are something else than fight i' th' open field ?
 But of fight, it seems, thou little thinkest ;
 Thy soldiers thou'st cast from thee.....

Ivan. To thee end.

Nagòi. Thy soldiers thou'st cast from thee.....run.
 agate !

And shut thee i' th' house like any driveller.....
 'Tis like thine evil conscience tortures thee,
 The memory of all thy senseless acts.....
 Bethink thyself ! And that.....

Ivan. Well, what ? Go on ;
 " And that ?".....Read on.

Nagòi. And that thy folly thou
 May'st see into, and thy vexed spirits soothe,
 I send unto thee two *Epistles* writ
 By Cicero, the Roman orator,
 To his two friends, to Claudio and Marcus.
 Read through them at thy leisure, and let this
 My humble letter serve thee for the while
 As.....

Ivàn. Read on to the end.

Nagòi. O Tzar !

Ivàn. " Let this,
 My humble letter serve thee for the while ".....

Nagòi. As whipping-rod to mend thy ways ! Amen.

[At the last words of Nagòi, Ivàn snatches
 from him the letter, looks into it, and begins
 to crumple up the paper. He is seized with
 spasms.

Ivàn. Sitting beyond the reach of harm, thou
 barkest,
 Like a cur yelping from behind the hedge !
 Out of my hands it hath not pleased thee, Prince,
 To take the crown of passing earthly pains,
 And with it everlasting bliss inherit.
 But wouldest thou not, out of thy grace, be pleased
 To Moscow come, and there by word of mouth
 Repeat to me what it hath pleased thee write ?

[Looks round him.

And here not one of all the many left
 That thought with him ? No, brother, son-in-law,
 No brother of his wife, not ev'n his thrall !
 Not one is left ! I 've settled with them all,
 And silently am now obliged to stomach
 This abuse. Not one have I got by me !

Enter Stolneek.

Stolneek. Great Tzar ! the Council of the Boyars now
 Are coming in a body to thee.

Ivan.

Ah !

They are welcome. They are come to put
 Another in my place. And well-pleased they,
 methinks.

Away with a worn-out Tzar ! 'Tis time now
 To cast *him* forth like to a withered branch.
 Already do they hug, methinks, the thought
 How, down the Red Stairs, from the Palace going,
 My wallet on my shoulders I shall carry.
 Out of their grace, perhaps, for Christian pity,
 They will be minded mine old coat to leave me !
 Let 's see whom it behoves me render up
 My place to. Boyars, I pray you, enter.

[*Exit Stolneek.*

In truth what kind of Tzar am I to them ?
 Under this monkish habit am I like
 Myself ? 'Tis I that have ere this untaught them
 Before the crowned Prince to tremble. What

Writes Koùrbski? My troops I have deserted;
Men scoff at me. I even write but loosely,
Like to a drunken, babbling wife. Is 't not so?
Let 's see who comes as the sagacious Tzar,
That taketh on him mine inheritance
Whiles yet I live.

Enter the Boyars.

Boyars, I greet you well !
Your consultation hath been long enough ;
But now at last the sentence of your Council
Is pronounced, and by you chosen, doubtless,
One to succeed me unto whom no shame
'Twill be to yield my throne. He is for certain
Of birth illustrious. Not less than we
In parts, in warlike spirit, piety,
And mercy, he will better us. Well, Boyars !
Before whom am I, then, to bend the knee ?
Before whom to fall down ? Before thee, Shouiski,
Or before thee, Mstislaffski ? Or, it may be,
Before thyself, Boyar of mine, Nikita
Romànovitch, defender of mine enemies.
An answer, then ; I wait for it !

Godundoff. Great Tzar !
Ourselves submitting to thy sacred will,
We have consulted. Our unanimous
To all intents unalterable sentence
We have beyond return pronounced. Listen !

Except thyself, a master over us
 There shall be none. Thou hast been hitherto
 Our sovereign ; 'tis thou must govern us
 Henceforth. With that our lives we yield up
 Unto thy will—punish us or pardon.

[Falls on his knees, imitated by the other Boyars.]

Ivàn (after a long silence). And so ye thought
 to put on me restraint !

Ye 'd bind me as a prisoner, and keep me,
 Whether I would or no, upon the throne.

The Boyars. O Tzar ! By God thou hast been given
 to us !

No other for our sovereign will we have
 Except thyself. Punish us, or pardon.

Ivàn. It must be that my mantle sits but ill
 Upon your shoulders. Ye the weight of empire
 Again would lay on me. Thus will it fall
 On you more lightly.

Shouiski. Tzar ! desert us not :
 Take pity on our need.

Ivàn. God be my witness,
 I did not think, I did not wish to put
 On a tired head again my irksome crown.
 Far different thoughts were mine : my soul did seek
 Another good. But ye not so decided.
 To the ship broken on the waves of life
 Ye 've barred the harbour. Let it be as ye

Would have it. I yield me to your Council :
 Against my will most utterly, I take again
 This golden crown, and style myself
 Once more Tzar of the Russias and your sovereign.

[*Puts on the cap of Monomach.*

The Boyars. Long live our Tzar, Ivàn Vasilevitch !
Ivàn. Give me the mantle.

[*Puts on the royal vestments.*

Come hither, Borìs !

Thou spokest boldly. For the kingdom's good
 Didst put thy head in pledge. I ever hear
 Well pleased, free speech straight from an honest
 heart.

[*Kisses Godunoff on the forehead, and turns to
 the Boyars.*

The second time have I, against my will,
 By resolution of the Council, now consented
 To stay upon the throne. Woe to the one
 Henceforth among you who imagineth
 Against me aught, or breaketh bread with those
 I have disgraced ; or any act of mine
 Within the past, although but secretly,
 Shall dare to judge, forgetting that my acts
 Are judged by none, for power is there none
 Above me that cometh not from God !

[*Looks round him.*

But

Seètski I do not see among you.

Godunoff. Let not thine anger fall on him, great Tzar !

Pardon the witless one.

Ivan. What is 't with Seètski ?

Godunoff. He would not come with us here to entreat thee.

Ivan. He would not come ! See, what a wag is that !

Lo, what he hath devised ! When all the Council T entreat me in a body had resolved, He would not come. That means that he is one Wi' th' Lithuanians ? and with the Khan Of Perekòp ? With Koùrbski ? Off wi' his head.

Zachàrin. Great Tzar ! permit me on this joyful day

One word for Seètski.

Ivan. Too late thou 'st thought on 't, My whilom brother. If that thou hadst wished Traitors to spare, thou shouldst have sat Thyself upon the throne : to-day the chance was thine.

[*To the Boyars.*

Let know the Envoy of our good sister, Elizabeth, that I to-morrow do appoint him Personal audience. Now to the cathedral, And unto the Most High bend we the knee !

[*Exit with Boyars.*

ACT II.

SCENE I.—A room in the Palace of Ivàn. Zachàrin and Godunòff discovered.

Godunòff. B' the clock an hour that with the
English Envoy

He sits alone. Strict orders he hath given
To let none in.

Zachàrin. Were we not all mistaken,
And thee as well, Boris? No gracious ruler
Is he, now seated on his throne again.

Godunòff. What could we do?

Zachàrin. Boris! Boris! If only
It be not worse than formerly. Know 'st thou
Of what their talk?

Godunòff. I do, my father, though
Right glad were I to know it not;
The Tzar would the Tzaritza put away,
And seeketh through the great Queen's Envoy
Her niece's hand, that of the Lady Hastings.

Zachàrin. God bless us! For the eighth time
would he marry.

I knew he thought of it before his sin,
But now,—now when he'd almost ta'en the cowl

Upon him, now,—it cannot be. Art sure
Of it?

Godunoff. To-day he told me so himself.

Zacharin. And what didst answer? Didst thou
tell him that

He doth devise a heavy sin? That he,
At his years, amid the woeful ills his
Kingdom groans with, should not think of marriage,
But of how t' uphold the land?

Godunoff. No, my father.

Zacharin. No, thou didst not?

Godunoff. No, 'twas no time for it.

He can't forget that yesterday his crown
He would put off. The thought that he of power —————
Had nearly been deprived hath made it now
Still dearer to him, just as if he sought
To make up for abatement in 't. All that,
With thee together, for the kingdom's good
Through him we would have bettered, must we now
Conceal from him, and our own thoughts in him
Unknown to him instil, that he may take it
For his own thought, not ours.

Zacharin. Thou 'rt right, Boris;
Thou 'st always better understood his mood.
Act for the best as thou best canst, but any way
Restrain him.

Godunoff. Father, day and night I think

Of this alone : how and by what restrain him ?
 I seek in vain a way that 's possible.
 There are no means to work on him.

Zachàrin. Boris,

Then we have erred. His pride will bring us all
 To some mischance, if thou canst not succeed
 In guiding it.

Godunòff. Your counsel give me, then.

Zachàrin. 'Tis not for me to counsel thee, Boris :
 God hath with skill endowed, and thought thee worthy
 Of supple wisdom. Not for naught hast thou
 The Tzar's love sought, and held thee from his sins
 And his dark acts aloof. Then keep thy wit,
 And act thou for thyself. Fear only this,
 Forget not thou dost serve not for thyself,
 But for thy country ; that the gifted mind
 And the ambitious one too oft are twin ;
 And that the crooked path with time becomes
 A danger to the soul.

Godunòff. How glad were I,
 My father, if my onward steps along
 The straight and even path might ever tread.
 But can it be so ? Thou dost know the Tzar ;
 Thou thyself knowest what mine enemies,
 And how they look out for advantage
 To set me once for all aside, or ruin me.
 What should I do ? I must unflaggingly

Pursue the snares of these my foes, and set
 'Gainst cunning cunning, or renounce for ever
 All hope to serve my country.

Zachàrin. God forfend !

Thou answerest for her unto him. Boris,
 The fate of Russia hangs on thee.

Godunoff. Oh ! if
 Indeed it did on me depend, my way
 Would lie before me. Let the Tzar Ivàn,
 Though only for a month, give me to govern,
 In one short month I'd show to him what strength
 This Russian land doth hide in her. I'd show him
 What power can, when not on punishment,
 But mercy, it is founded. Oh, my father !
 It doth weigh heavily to see all this,
 And impotently speak not.

[*A Stòlneek opens the door.*

Stòlneek. Ho ! the Tzar !

[*Ivàn enters with letters in his hand.*

Ivàn. Shòliski hath writ to us : plague and revolt
 Are rife from famine in the royal camp ;
 Their King, it seems, hath to his senses come,
 And out of Warsaw sendeth me an Envoy.

Zachàrin. May God give health unto the Waywode,
 Prince

Ivàn Petrovitch.

Ivàn. Our besieged again

Have kissed the Cross to act like Christian soldiers ;
 Die all, and not surrender. But I think
 That our good Coz, Stephàn, hath now small liking
 To the siege, and if with reinforcement
 He come where hunger waits him, get we sticks
 To drive him off.

[*To Zachàrin.*

T' th' market-place go thou ;
 Inform the people that the King doth beg
 A peace of me.

Zachàrin. O Tzar ! but if 'tis not
 With peace the Envoy comes ?

Ivàn. I take it, thou
 Art pleased to teach us. 'Twas apparently
 By error that the Boyars brought to us,
 And not to thee, the crown. Go thou, old man,
 And tell the people on the market-place
 That the King begs a peace of me.

[*Exit Zachàrin.*

Ivàn (to Godunoff). I have concluded with the
 English Envoy ;
 But he is slow and squabbling o'er his points.
 The English, look ye, should have rights of trade,
 Be free of taxes ; aye, give up all to them.
 Invite him to thy house to dine with thee,
 Talk over it with him advisedly,
 And what he saith report to me.

Godunoff.

Great Tzar!

But yesterday thou saidst to me, free speech
 That cometh from an honest heart thou hearest
 Willingly : permit me now before thee
 Freely to speak again. This Englishman,
 I fear, may think thee over-anxious for
 Th' alliance of the Queen, and then will he
 Wax still more obstinate. Were it not better
 Let him depart the business unconcluded ?
 If then the Queen, as 'tis most hard to think,
 Hold to the lifting of the taxes, thou
 Canst always send an Envoy unto her
 With thy consent.

Ivàn.

Put otherwise, the Boyar

Boris it liketh not that Tzar Ivàn
 Should be of kin unto the English Queen ?
 Thus ? Is 't not ? Speak ! I look thee through.

Godunoff.

Great Tzar !

In vain would I have tried to feign with thee
 What any thinketh thou dost read. 'Twas e'en
 With me as thou hast said, Tzar. I confess me
 Of my fault. Send me to punishment, but
 Listen : not me alone, great Tzar, but all
 Wide Russia this new marriage liketh not.
 All Russia the Tzaritza loves, for she
 Is pious, and still more for that she is
 The mother of Demetri, after thee

The second that must one day mount the throne.
 For thy Tzaritza, e'en as for thyself,
 The people daily in the churches pray,
 But what their cry, and what will say the clergy,
 When thou the mother of Demetri puttest
 Away from thee, to take another bride
 Of other faith ! These thy eighth nuptials, Tzar,
 Will they not say that our calamities
 (And it may chance that many more befall us)
 By *thee* are brought upon the land ? Great Tzar !
 Then punish me ; but at thy feet I pray,

[*Falls on his knees.*]

For Russia holds by thee alone. Essay not
 At such a time to shake her faith in thee.
 Turn not away from thee, thus fruitlessly,
 The people's love.

Ivan. Hast done ? Thou 'st turned, I see,
 Th' encouragement I gave thee to good use,
 And truly thou 'rt not bold by halves. Seeing
 The favour I have graced thee with, thou thinkest
 Naturally that, for my guidance, I
 Do keep thee. What ? the Zemstro, then, hath set
 thee
 B' my side ? Is 't not to blame or to approve
 My acts ? and thou canst bend me as the wind
 Can bend the reed. I' faith, 'tis laughable
 To see ye all. How ye would put on me

The priest, as once Silvèster ! On thy lips
The milk that suckled thee was yet undried
When to the priests, Silvèster and Alèxis,
I'd shown myself already more than boy.
Since then, as I myself conceive it best,
As it may bring advantage to my kingdom,
So do I act ; and grieve me not for aught
That this or that one say of me. I build up
Not for a day, not for a year, the throne
Of Russia, but for the length of ages ;
And what i' the distance I foresee, that thou
Blinded seest not with those hen's eyes of thine.
Know, then, I keep thee by me but for that
Thou shouldst my will fulfil, and punctually ;
And that thine only merit. Get thee up.
This time I pardon thee ; but, for the future,
Thrust thyself not on me as counsellor.
The Envoy thou 'lt invite, and show to me
The points agreed to-morrow.

[Exit by the other door.]

Godunoff (alone). He is right.

I am his slave. I ought to have foreseen it.
Was 't that I knew him not? I've acted like
A woman, like a boy. Like an idiot
Have I acted.

Lo, the straight and even path,
The path Zachàrin bids me tread ! As by

A wall, the first step that I take on it
The Tzar's will bars it me. For the State's good,
Defending the Tzaritza, e'en the house,
Time out of mind the foes of mine, Nagòi,
I would have saved with her the men that now,
This very hour assembled, are consulting
How they may ruin me. I was content
To-day to spare them, if that Russia only
Could stand unshaken by the Tzar. Behold
What comes of it! Easy for thee, Nikita
Romanovitch, to tread the even path.
Thou hast no aim before thee set. Thou lookest
Calmly upon this world, in quiet sadness.
Like to the sun upon a wintry day,
Beaming on earth, but warming not the ground,
Thou wendest pure and bright unto thy rest.
My soul doth seek for action and for strife.
I cannot be at peace so easily.
Dissentions, snares, and despotism see,
And, in my loyalty, that whitest garb,
Be comforted that I am pure and upright!

[*Exit by the other door.*

SCENE II.—*Shoviski's house.* *Shoviski, Mstislaffski, Michael Nagdi, Gregori Nagdi, and Belski* are seated at table drinking.

Shoviski (*helping the others to wine*). Mine honoured guests, I pray you drink. And here I give the health of Godundoff! 'Twas he, I' faith, that settled our affairs in Council!

[*The guests drink unwillingly. Mstislaffski does not drink at all.*

What ails thee, Prince Iván Fedoritch?

The wine, perhaps, is little to thy taste.

Shall we not try another, and a stronger?

Mstislaffski. No, Prince, I thank thee. Not the wine, the health

It is which, I confess, mislikes me.

Shoviski. What!

Thou wilt not pledge me, Prince, to Godundoff?

And there ye also, Boyars, knit your brows:

Do ye dislike him so?

Mstislaffski. An upstart! Tartar!

And basks him, look ye, nearest to the throne.

Belski. And we, of course, must cool us in the shade.

M. Nagdi. His foot will soon be now on all our necks!

G. Nagdi. No, it will not; 'tis planted there already.

Shoviski. Hold ye there, Boyars. What, Godundoff?

Against his will it is that he is raised

Above us, and it vexes him. He always

Both gives us honour where 'tis due, and, in
The Council, is ever ready to be silent
Or agree with us.

M. Nagòi. Yes, there 's a natural,
Whom none can quarrel with ; yielding to each,
Bending to all, the imp ! He not the less
Gets his own way at last.

Shouïski. Well, this time we
Must thank him for 't.

Bëlski. This time is not the first,
And will not be the last. Seëtski that 's gone
Spoke truth : he 'll break us all yet.

M. Nagòi. Yes ; he will,
If we don't break him first.

G. Nagòi. How can we break him ?

Bëlski. We might get something noised abroad about
him.

Metislàffski. And who will then believe us ? One
short word

From him, and we, like Seëtski, are confounded.

M. Nagòi. No ; so impossible. Yet might we other-
wise.

But then Prince *Shouïski*, look ye, stands by him.

Shouïski. I stand by him ? Why, what is *he* to me ?
No godfather, wife's brother, sister's husband !
I only meant he was not worth your trouble.

Bëlski. Why, art thou blind ?

Shouiski. No, Boyar, I'm not blind.
When brought to act, you would yourselves think twice.

Belski. Oh, fear not that!

Mstislaffski. We'd stand, then, by each other.

G. Nagoi. We all are ready to kiss the Cross on 't.

Shouiski. Tut! Then it liketh you yourselves to run

A noose upon your necks!

Belski. Well, Prince, forgive
My speech if rough. Blind art thou as a mole,
And thou wilt be the first to find thyself
Dislodged by this same Tartar in an instant.

Shouiski. Thou thinkest so?

Belski. I'm well assured of it.

Shouiski. If so, the matter wears another face.

Belski. Then thou consentest?

Shouiski. Why should I alone
Stand out 'gainst all? An't please thee, I consent.
But how begin the matter?

M. Nagoi. Thus we'll do:
Just now we have, on all sides throughout Russia,
Both pestilence and blighted crops. Troubles
There've been already. Beyond the Mdsakva,
Two separate revolts have raged. The people
At such times are exasperate; they're glad,
Not waiting to make choice, to throw themselves

On the first comer. It depends on us
To catch the humour of the time, and, watching
Our moment, let them loose upon Boris.

G. Nagòi. 'Twould not be bad. Keep in the dark
ourselves,

And let the people rid us of Boris.

Mstislàffski. Yes, in the dark. But how to raise
the people?

We cannot well ourselves go on the market.

M. Nagòi. Most true; we want a man that we can
trust.

Bèlski. Or else one whom we have that hold upon :
He shall be ever in perpetual dread.

Mstislàffski. Where shall we find him?

Shouïski (*opening a door into an inner room*). Enter,
Danilitch !

Enter Beetiagòffski.

Behold him, Boyars, the very man we need !
I've spoken with him : he is glad to serve us.

[*General surprise.*]

Bèlski. So thou,..... Well, Prince, a frank surprise !

G. Nagòi. We're tricked,
If ever men were, finely.

Mstislàffski. And 'twas he
That toasted Godundoff.

[*Shouïski smiles.*]

M. Nagòi (*pointing to Beetiagòffski*). So, he it is

That undertakes our business. But who,
Then, is he ? It imports us much to know.

Shouiski. He is a noble, Michael Beetiagoffski.
I pray you grant him favour and esteem :
He 'll not betray us.

Belski. Prince, of a verity,
We 've proof enough thou wantest not for cunning ;
We know that we can trust thee ; yet permit,
In an affair so full of danger, that,
Without offence to thee, or blame to him,
I put a question. How dost answer for him ?

Shouiski. Boyars, the case is clear : at dice and cards
He hath his fortune squandered all ; in debt
He sits up to his neck ; and now he 's threatened
With distress. Two ways are open to him :
To serve us faithfully,—we pay his debts ;
To dupe us,—and we leave him to the law.
Danilitch, is 't not so ? Is the pact clear ?

Beetiagoffski. 'Tis clear.

Shouiski. If thou this matter can adjust,
We will reward thee.

Beetiagoffski. That 's self-evident.

Shouiski. I say this to thee, not as a reproach,
But that these Boyars may have faith in thee.
Now, sit thee down.

Beetiagoffski. I can as well be standing.

Shouiski. There, pour thee out, and drink.

Beetiagoffski. One might
Do worse.

[*Drinks, bows, and puts the goblet back on the table.*]

Belski. 'Tis true, then, that thou canst against Boris
Stir up and rouse the people ?

Beetiagoffski. Yes, I can.

M. Nagòi. With whom would'st thou begin ?

Beetiagoffski. The common people.

G. Nagòi. What wilt thou speak about ?

Beetiagoffski. About the famine.

Belski. What wilt thou say ?

Beetiagoffski. What comes into my head.

Matielaffski. And dost thou answer for success ?

Beetiagoffski. I do.

M. Nagòi. The people must be stirred to rise in
earnest.

At first thou must prepare them skilfully :

Boris it is hath raised the prices on ye ;

He holds the Tzar in leading strings ; from him

Come all your ills. Malouta's son-in-law !

And he the one hath moved the Tzar to punish !

This done, find thee a holiday, or some

Such fit occasion, that he shall to church

Be going, aye, or leaving it, and then

Incite the mob to action. It were well

Thou joined another with thee.

Beetiagoffski.

It is needless.

Belski. Mere cries and noise wont serve the turn ;
It wanteth, when the mob see Godundoff,
That they should throw themselves at once upon him,
And tear him piecemeal.

Beetiagoffski. To pieces they shall tear him.

Shouiski. Rely upon him, Boyars ! He is curt
In speech, but when it comes to act,
He 'll stick at nothing ; he is no beginner.
And ye, meanwhile, the Boyars try to sound :
The more of us, the easier 'twill be
To bring him to the point.

Belski. Some one or other

I 'll find in any case, and send him out
Likewise among the people. I do know
Of one whom I have long had eye upon ;
A noble from Rezan, Prokophi Kekeen.

Shouiski. If thou canst answer for him, be it so ;
Send him as from thyself ; from both ends let them
I' th' city breed commotion ; and if then
The one doth not succeed, the other may.

Mstislaffski. Such lips as thine, O Prince Vasili

Ivanitch,
Should drink but mead.

M. Nagdi. Well, now, thank God for it,
All goes on well !

Enter a Servant.

Servant. The Boyar Godundoff !

Shouiski (aside). The devil damn him !

Enter Godundoff. The guests rise in confusion.

Shouiski goes to meet him with open arms.

Boris Fedòritch !

**Ever welcome guest ! Humbly I thank thee
For thy kindness.**

[*They embrace.*

Seat thyself here, Boyar,

Under the image, honouring my house :

What can I find that's fit to offer thee ?

See here Roumanian wines, and Rhenish here,

Or Alikant thou mayst prefer, or Bastre.

Godundoff (bowing). I give thee thanks, Boyar
Prince Vasili

Ivànvitch. But am I not intruding ?

Thou hadst, perhaps, with these thine honoured guests,
Something of moment toward ?

Shouiski. Not of moment,
Boyar. We did but joke together. Pray,
Be seated. Now, to do me honour, Boyar,
Accept, if but one draught.

Godundoff. I drink thy health.

[*Mstislàffski approaches Shouiski.*

Mstislàffski. Kind host, I must be home ; good bye !

Bèleski. I also

Must be home ; good bye !

The two Nagòis. 'Tis time for us, too.
 Good bye, then, Prince Vasili Ivànitch.
Shòriski. What, honoured guests ! Why, then, so
 early off ?
M. Nagòi. We have to do at home.
Shòriski. Well, good bye, then,
 Boyars ! I thank you for the honour done.

[*Conducts guests, and returns to Godundoff.*
 And now, praise be to God, they 're gone ! This visit,
 Boyar, makes me truly grateful. Thou'l not
 Believe the pleasure that is mine to see thee.
 Truly we two have long been one together.
 What thou—that I !

Godundoff. Thanks to thee, Prince Vasili
 Ivànovitch. I came to ask thee for
 A counsel.

Shòriski. My services are thine, Boyar.
Godundoff. Thou knowest, Prince, the Council love
 me not—
 A new man I.

Shòriski. And what of that ? I 'm for thee
 Heart and soul ; though true it is there are
 That do mislike us. Say Mstislàffski does,
 Or may be Bèlski—who can tell ? One sees
 They envy thee the love the Tzar doth bear thee !

Godundoff. The Tzar doth favour me beyond my
 merits ;

A slippery path it is, O Prince, I tread.
 Some day they 'll poison the Tzar's ear against me,
 And ruin here with us comes quickly, Prince.

Shouiski. And I, then, count for nothing ? I would
 brave
 Or fire or water for thee. Art thou not
 A brother to me ?

Enter Servant.

Servant (to Shouiski). Prince, from the Tzar to thee.

Shouiski (rising). For me ? and now ? Well, you 'll
 forgive me, Boyar—

The Tzar waits no one.

Godunoff. No excuses, Prince.

[*Exit Shouiski hurriedly.* *Godunoff* remains
 alone with *Beetiagoffski*, and fixes him with
 his eye. *Beetiagoffski* is confused and
 turns away.]

Thou art the noble, Michael *Beetiagoffski* ?

Beetiagoffski (turning to go). Yes, I 'm a noble.

Godunoff. Not a step ! Stand there
 And listen ! Thou 'st ruined thyself at cards.
 Distraint will soon be on thee—things go ill—
 But they may take a turn still worse for thee.
 Thou 'st written to the Lithuanian camp
 Offering thy service to *Zamiski*.

Beetiagoffski. No, that 's a lie ! They have slandered me !

Godunoff.

I have

Found means to intercept thy letter, and
See, here it is, thine own words, line for line !

[*Takes a letter out of his pocket—Beetiagoffski bends down, and puts his hand into the leg of his boot.*

Thou takest to thy knife ? Don't trouble thee !
Thy paper's under triple lock, and this
Is but a copy. Listen, friend : Prince Shouiski
Hath bargained with thee, yesterday, to set
The people on me. Thou to-day hast talked
The matter o'er with Belski, the Nagois,
And with Mstislaffski. I've but to wish it,
And in an hour the crows will peck thy flesh.

Beetiagoffski. Boyar.....I, I did not consent.....

Godunoff. Be silent !

Thou must from this same moment make pretence
Of serving Shouiski. Go about the squares,
The markets, the bazaars, but spread the rumour
That Shouiski is with Belski leagued to poison
The Tzar himself ; and that they have resolved
To do to death Feodor the Tzarèvitch,
And his brother young Demetri ; say that
They would have, but for Godunoff, already
Ended our line of Tzars ; that Godunoff alone
Doth guard the Tzar, and keep from harm the kingdom.
Hast understood ?

Beetiagòffski. I have.

Godunòff. Come thou to-day

Unto my house to me ; be on the stairs
That lead up from the back : when first it darkens,
There thou wilt find the steward who 'll conduct thee,
Each evening thou 'lt come again. All that
Shoùiski, or Bèlski, or any other bids thee,
Thou wilt repeat to me at once. Remember !
Where'er thou be 'st, there will I follow thee :
Give not a wish, not e'en a thought to flight ;
The difference know 'twixt me and Shoùiski there,
That he doth fright thee with constraint, and I
Do threaten thee with such a punishment
That it had ne'er been thought of by Malouùta
Skouràtoff—Bèlski, my wife's late father.

[*Exit—Beetiagòffski remains lost in astonishment.*

ACT III.

SCENE I.—*The room of the Tzaritza Maria Fedorovna.*
The Tzaritza and the Nurse of the Tzarèvitch
Demètri discovered.

Tzaritza. Well, Nurse, what sayst thou? Is he
yet to bed?

And sleeps he well, my darling the Tzarèvitch?

Nurse. Yes, Madam, he 's asleep, and fast asleep.
Just now I could not take my eyes off him;
He lay so quiet, his little eyes were shut,
And both his tiny fists were clenched. The pet,
He had been running, fit to die with laughter;
And such a brisk one! Not one whit in him
Of his elder brother, Fedor Ivànitch.
There is one mild and gentle, so to say
Scarce a Tzarèvitch, most unlike in all
To what his brother was, Ivàn Ivànitch.
La, it was he, God rest his soul, that was
His father's self again. Ah me! Ah me!
To think of it, that he is dead, and how?
Oh, what a sin! One's head goes round with it.

Tzaritza. We shall do well, Nurse, not to speak of
it.

Hath not the Tzar a message sent to say
 That he is coming here? Hath he not sent
 To know of some one if my child be well?

Nurse. No, Madam, he hath no one sent.

Tzaritza. There was
 A time that he inquired each day himself.

Nurse. No, Madam, no one hath been sent. But we
 An't please, not long ago, during our walk,
 Were met b' th' Boyar Godundoff, who coming
 To join us, the Tzarèvitch in his arms
 Took up, and 'gan to fondle and admire him.

Tzaritza. And thou didst let him fondle the
 Tzarèvitch!

No one should fondle him. Dost thou hear, Nurse?

Nurse. Aye, Madam! And the Boyar Godundoff
 Spoke to me this wise: look to it well, Nurse,
 Keep the Tzarèvitch from all harm. Thou must,
 Saith he, for every hair upon his head
 Answer before thy God and country.

Tzaritza. Nurse,
 Listen to me: it will not do for thee
 To chatter thus with every one. Henceforth
 Thou wilt let no one to the infant speak.

Nurse. Nay, but thou dost not think it of me,
 Madam?

An't please, the other day came up to us
 Nikita Romanovitch; but with him,

Of course, then, we must never speak ?

Tzaritza.

Not so ;

With him thou mayst. I can have trust in him,
He 's all to me that could be mine own father.

Enter Chambermaid.

Chambermaid. Tzaritza ! may Nikita Romanovitch,
Zachàrin-Youreff enter to thee ?

Tzaritza. He here ? at once, at once let him come
in.

Enter Zachàrin.

Zachàrin. Good day, Tzaritza Maria Feòdorovna !

Art well ?

Tzaritza (*going to meet him*). Good day to thee,
uncle Nikita

Romanovitch ! God sendeth thee. I must
Speak with thee. Go to the Tzarèvitch, Nurse,
Leave us.

[*Exit Nurse.*

I 've need to talk with thee, Nikita
Romanovitch. Seat thee here, nearer to me.
I know not, truly, what hath come to me ;
Something these last days weighs upon my heart,
As if it boded misery. Tell me,
Thou hast heard nothing ? Hath there happened
aught ?
The Tzar, what thinks he of ?

Zachàrin.

I came, Tzaritza,

To give thee warning. I myself no longer
Know what to do with him. 'Tis a sad case
For all of us. Like to the horse that starts
Wild on a sudden with the bit in mouth,
Or like a raging buffalo that all
Breaks down before him in his run, so he
Now knows of no restraint. His pride a river
That breaketh from its banks, and drowneth all
Around.

Tzaritza. But tell me, what is in his thoughts ?

Zacharin. God alone knows.

Tzaritza. They speak within the
palace

Of something terrible. He long alone
Sat talking with the English Envoy ; yes,
I know—I 've guessed—he marries him, and with
A foreigner, and he will cast me forth,
To go with my Demetri where I may.

Zacharin. Be thou prepared, my child, to meet the
worst.

Tzaritza. 'Twas not for nothing that my heart was
sad.

Zacharin. Tzaritza, he this morning meant to come
Himself to thee. Let him not see that I
With thee have talked of this. I will be here,
List humbly to him, and whate'er he saith,
Answer him not a word—be dumb. A single

Sound, a single sigh, one gesture from thee,
 And thou art lost. Let, then, the storm rage by.
 It may be yet thy humbleness will soften him ;
 And, if it be not so, on mine own head
 Will I receive the blow. I 'll tell him openly
 That such an act doth shame his conscience.

Tzaritza.

Boyar,

Oh, save me ! 'Tis not for myself I fear ;
 I fret not for myself, thou knowest it.
 When first Ivàn Vasilitch chose me, then
 That honour little gladdened me ; if he
 Had three years back divorced me, then would I
 Have thanked God for it ; but I, Boyar, now
 Am not alone. I am a mother now ;
 And if he take another wife to him—
 My child may—oh ! I dare not think of it—
 Demètri, he, my little one—Oh ! Boyar !
 I know not what I say myself, know not
 What is 't I fear, what I believe ; but darkly
 I see before me danger for Demètri.
 Speak to, appeal to th' conscience of the Tzar.
 He honours thee. Look thou into the matter
 First with him.

Zachàrin. Tzaritza, thou my child ! whom honours
 he ?

I, to say sooth, before him never yet
 Have worn a crooked conscience, but myself,

I know not how I have escaped. But one
 There is on earth to whom he will at times
 Yet listen. God give Godunoff both life
 And health ! 'Tis he alone that now is able
 To restrain him.

Tzaritza. Oh, uncle ! put no trust
 In Godunoff. He is not what thou thinkest.
 His air of meekness, his soft measured manners,
 And then that look, that is by nothing ruffled,
 And then that voice, that ever is the same,
 They fright me not without a cause. I cannot
 Bear to look on while he my child doth take
 And fondle it.

Zachàrin. What's come to thee, Tzaritza ?
 Thou mean'st it not : what, Godunoff ?

[*A Maidservant runs in out of breath.*

Maid. Is coming ! Will be here directly !

The Tsar

Tzaritza (frightened). Uncle !
 It frightens me ! I cannot.....

Zachàrin. Go quickly,
 Set thee to rights, that he may notice nothing !
 And dry thine eyes !

Tzaritza. Oh ! the heart faints of me !

Zachàrin. Off with thee on the instant ! Put thee on
 Thy best, and I will here receive him.

[*Exit Tzaritza.* *Ivan* enters accompanied by
 Godunoff.

Ivàn (to Zachàrin). What
Dost thou here ?

Zachàrin. I wait for the Tzaritza, Tzar.

Ivàn. What matter
Canst have with the Tzaritza ?

Zachàrin. I but came
To make inquiries of her health.

Ivàn. Where is she ?

Zachàrin. Hearing thy voice, she went to put her on
A dress that might do honour to thy visit,

Ivàn. And might have stayed just as she was. Her
dress

Won't make her comelier.

[*To Godunòff as he sits down.*

Go on ! Thou saidst
That thou hadst seen the Envoys ?

Godunòff. Both, great Tzar !

Ivàn. Well, what then ?

Godunòff. Bowes, the Envoy of Elisa,
Assureth that the Queen will give to thee
Her niece, the Lady Hastings' hand ; but he
Hath no authority to sign to that
A written contract, 'till the time that thou
Art publicly divorced from the Tzaritza ;
He also added, thou must trade forbid
Throughout all Russia unto foreigners
From every kingdom, but excepting always

Our English guests. In that case, doth the Queen Promise, so saith he, friendship and alliance, And that she will the German Emperor beg To move his troops on Poland.

Ivàn. I give much thanks unto Elizabeth, Our sister, that she is not squeamish in Accepting of a friendship and a kindred. Sorry as ours. We can, however, now Get on without her favours, and we ask not The Emperor for aid. Soon we ourselves Will troops convey beyond our borders. Hah ! What didst thou learn from th' Polish Envoy ? What lands doth promise Coz Stephàn for peace ?

Godunòff. Over the wine, great Tzar, we sat with him 'Till morning broke. Garàbourda drinks deep, And likes to hear him talk, though no born Pole ; But draw from him I could not what had brought Him hither. Unto thee alone, he saith, Will he disclose it.

Ivàn. There 's not much, I take it, To make him boast beforehand.

Godunòff. I' th' morning There came a hasty messenger unto him Sent by the King express. In vain I strove To read the meaning of the letter in The Envoy's eyes. No feature of his face That moved. The tired messenger, as soon

As he had quaffed one draught, fell down and slept.

Ivàn. I take it, slept not once upon the road :
Their plight is clear, in straits unbearable.

Godunòff. If it were only.....

Ivàn. What ?

Godunòff. If it were
only

No bad news that he brought to us.

Ivàn. Bad news
I 've not received ; and what I know not of
Is not.

Godunòff. Be cautious, Tzar !

Ivàn. Boris mine, is 't
Again not thy advice that thou art pleased
To offer us ? Turned coward hath, say I,
Our Coz Stephan, and fresh concessions sent
T' instruct Garàbourda. Hey ! Maria !

[*Strikes on the ground with his staff.*

Wilt thou be long there huddling on thy gauds ?

Enter the Tzaritza in full dress. She salutes

Ivàn, and stands before him in silence.

Ivàn (looking intently at her). Why hast thou cried
thine eyes out ?

[*The Tzaritza keeps silence, looking down.*
Hearest thou ?

What 's come to thee ?

Tzaritza. My LorJ, forgive me.....I.....

Ivàn. Well?

Tzarítza. I've had an unpleasant dream.

Ivàn. What dream?

Tzarítza. I dreamt, my Lord.....I dreamt I was.....I was.....

Parted from thee!

Ivàn. A dream that's nicked it. Thou 'rt displeasing to me. I am come to tell thee That from this moment thou no longer art A wife to me.

Tzarítza. 'Tis true, then? It is true? Thou mean'st to cast me with Demètri forth? With my Demètri? Thou dost mean.....

Ivàn. Silence! Old women's tears and cries I like them not.

Tzarítza. No, my good Lord—I do not weep—I will not; Thou seest that I do not weep; but say On what plea wilt thou be divorced from me? What wilt thou to the Clergy say? what fault Wilt thou then find to lay on me?

Ivàn. What's that? Thou puttest me to question as I take it? Who art thou? Daughter of what sovereign? Whom Must I give answer to of thee? Is 't that Thou art more comely, handsomer than others, For me to keep thee fast as any treasure?

Or that I am not master of my house ?

Or that thou art Tzaritza of thyself ?

Tzaritza. Forgive, my Lord ! Forgive ! I murmur not :

I do not ask for grace ; I am content

All to endure ; but he, my poor Demetri,

In what is he to blame ?

Ivàn. Put not thyself
About for him. My son in appanage,
We 'll have the town of Oùglitch. For thy faults,
I need them not. I 'll have thee shaved, and there
Is thy divorce. The Clergy, God be praised !
I have not used to meddling with my household,
Or asking an account of me.

Zachàrin. Great Tzar !
Permit me now to say one word to thee.
Ivàn. Old man, I see what thou art bent on saying
Whate'er I do 'tis not in grain with thee,
I know thee well.

Zachàrin. Great Tzar !.....
Ivàn. I know thee well.
Thou wouldst be glad to tie my hands again
As in the times of priest Silvèster, or
Adàsheff. Thou wast friends with them. When I
My ban put on them, where was the misfortune
That thou didst not predict to me ? To hear thee,
The State had fallen in two. And what not else ?

Since then full twenty years have passed, where now
 Is thine Adàsheff ? where Silvèster ? We,
 Under God's blessing, have meanwhile kept this
 Our kingdom undiminished. Still we manage,
 Unschooled by thee, after our simple way,
 To live on with our own wits' aid and thee,
 Old man, for guidance ask we not.

Zachàrin.

Great Tzar !

What we have conquered by the sword, that we
 B' th' sword may lose again. All things do lie
 In God's hand, Tzar ; but God doth only bless
 Good actions : thou, O Tzar, an evil one
 Devisest. Thy Tzaritza is all pure
 Before thee, pure as light. A sin to thee,
 That thou wouldst put a new wife in her place.
 Rather than seek in England for allies,
 Look round on Russia. What are her provinces ?
 Thou, Tzar—I tell thee openly—thou hast
 Frightened in early youth by dire seditions,
 Thy whole life feared revolts that were unreal,
 And crushed a harassed land. Thou 'st broken in her
 All that was of strength, thou 'st trampled under
 All that was of mind, thou 'st made the men of her
 Mere mutes, and thou thyself, most like an oak
 I' th' open field, now stand'st alone, with naught
 That thou canst lean on, if—which God forbid— .
 Thy happy fortunes leave thee, thou wilt be

Before misfortune naked all and poor.
Misfortune is not far to seek, O Tzar !
Glad not thyself with victory o'er Bathòry,
Russia hath other straits. The Khan, the Swedes,
Do threaten us, and in our midst are rife
Injustice and disorder, aye, and famine.
These no alliance with the English can
Stave off from us. An old man I, great Tzar !
And nearing to my grave. No gain have I
In idly thwarting thee. And thou thyself,
Great Tzar ! art no more young. Come to thy years,
For thee to think anew of marriage is
A sin, aye, and unworthy of thee. Thou
Shouldst thank God for the gentle wife He gave,
And seek thee not another.

Ivan. *Nikita !*

I've let thee run on to the end. Thou art
Nearer unto the grave than thou dost think ;
I 'm weary grown with sparing thee. To answer
Thy prating it were easy for me ; but,
I answer thus. I will it so. Enough !
Not one word more ! 'Tis time that we receive
The Envoy of Bathòry. Follow me,

[*To the Tzaritza.*

And get thee ready for the cloister, thou !

[*Exit with Zachàrin.*

SCENE II.—*The throne-room.* The whole Court, in rich dresses, enter and arrange themselves along the walls. By the doors, and around the throne, stand the Body Guard with axes on their shoulders. Trumpets and bells announce the entrance of Ivàn.

He enters from the inner chambers, together with Zachàrin.

Ivàn (to Zachàrin). Show in the Envoy! But let honours none
Be done to him. I am not minded further
To dally with Bathòry.

[*Exit Zachàrin.* Ivàn takes his seat on the throne. Through the door of audience enter Garàbourda, who with a low salute stops before Ivàn.

Ivàn (eyeing him from head to foot). 'Tis not the first time that I see thee, Pan
Garàbourda, before my throne. Thou wast,
Upon the death of Sigismund the King,
Sent to me with a message from the Diet?

Garàbourda. I was, great Tzar!

Ivàn. I do remember me,
The Pans of Poland offered me the throne.

Garàbourda. 'Twas even so.

Ivàn. But to become your
King,

My power making not hereditary,
Did not seem good to me. It pleased ye not
T' accept the terms I made.

Garabourda. Great Tzar ! we could not
Violate th' Republic's privileges.
We have a law, that each time should our King
Be chosen by the Diet.

Ivan. A right good law :
A worthy sovereign did it give to you
In Henry.

Garabourda. May the devil have him ! He
Was for us but a sorry King. And when
He ran from us, we washed our hands of him,
And chose another.

Ivan. Yes, Bathory, who
Paid tribute to the Sultan when that he
Was Prince of Transylvania. Well, what wants he ?
What hath he charged thee now with ?

Garabourda. My Most High
And Mighty Lord, King over Poland, Prince
Of Transylvania, Lithuania's Duke.....

Ivan. Hold there ! Art not orthodox ? They told
me

Thou went'st to our cathedral unto mass ?

Garabourda. E'en so, Tzar !

Ivan. Why dost, then, own
for Lord

A Latin heretic ?

Garàbourda. Because, great Tzar !
He all the liberties of the Ukraine
Hath strengthened, he our sacred church doth honour,
And lets us drive out all the cursed Ksèndsi.*

Ivàn. All faiths are one to him, and I have heard
He giveth honour also unto infidels.
Well, tell us, then, with what petition he
Hath sent thee to us ? What is the asking of
Our Coz Stéphàn ?

Garàbourda. He begs henceforth, Pan Tzar,
That thou wilt call him not thy Coz, but give him,
In writing and by word of mouth, the honour,
Denominations, title, dignities,
Withal, which shall to his High Majesty
Suffice.

Ivàn. Hah ! He 's a jester ! Now, in that same
hour
That he runs home from 'neath the walls of Pskoff.
It is not bad though. Further !

Garàbourda. Furthermore,
From thee he doth require that now at once
From off Livonian soil thou do withdraw
Thy troops, and that unto the Polish crown
Thou do, in sovereignty for aye, surrender

* A name given to the Polish Roman Catholic Priests.

Smoleñsk, and Pàlotsk, Nòvgorod, and Pskoff.

[*Murmurs through the assembly.*]

On these terms is he willing to conclude.

A peace with thee.

Ivàn. Ho, Envoy ! Hast thou emptied
Many wine-pots ? How darest thou before me
Appear thus drunken ?

[*To the Stòlneeki.*]

Which of ye hath ventured
T' admit a man not sober to my palace ?

Garàbourda. If to thy taste, Pan Tzar, these same
conditions

Savour ill, the King Stephan doth bid me
Say to thee, "Why should we spill in vain the
blood

Of our two peoples ? Let us on our steeds
Do mortal battle with our sabres, man
To man, as most befitting gentle knights."
And therewith sends the King to thee this glove.

[*Throws down before Ivàn an iron gauntlet.*]

Ivàn. Which of ye both hath lost his senses ? Thou
Or the King ? For what that glove ? Is 't not that I
Should strike thee with it o'er the face ? Thou dog !
Hast thou forgotten that thou art not now
In the presence of an elected King ?
Darest thou call into the field the one
By God anointed ? I 'll find a field for thee !

I'll have thee, in a bear's skin sewn, cast forth
Into a field for curs to worry.

Garàbourda. Nay,

That, Pan Tzar, thou can't not do.

Ivàn. What's that ?

Jokes he not with me ? Boyars, I'm grown, it seems,
A butt for jest-breaking ?

Garàbourda. Nay, nay. That can't be,
To sew an Envoy in a bear's skin up.

Ivàn. Out of my sight ! Whip him hence, ye
knaves !

Drive him with lashes back unto the King !

Out of the palace with thee ! Out dog ! Out !

[*Seizes an axe from one of the Guard, and
throws it at Garàbourda.*

Garàbourda (warding the blow). Thou art in haste,
Pan Tzar. Thou hast not yet,
As it would seem, Pan Tzar, heard that from Warsaw
With reinforcement comes the King Stephàn ;
That on the frontiers he already hath
Utterly routed all thy troops. Thou hast,
As it would seem, not heard yet that the Swedes
Have ta'en Naròva, and prepare to march
Together with the King on Nòvgorod.
Thy Waywodes are but sorry ones, that they
Have not informed thee of 't.

Ivàn (rising from the throne). Thou liest, villain !

Garàbourda. Ah! but by God 'tis true. Why should I lie?

It is not well to lie. Then as, Pan Tzar,
Thou wilt not meet in loyal battle with
The Most High King, the King himself to Moscow
Will come to thee. Now, keep thee well.

[*Exit. General agitation.*

Godunoff (*entering hastily*). Great Tzar! what hast thou done? Thou hast affronted
The Envoy of Bathòry.

Ivàn. He doth lie
Like any cur!

Godunoff. No, Tzar! It is all true.
Messengers from camp are just come in;
I 've seen them. The Swedes have ta'en Naròva;
Our troops are routed!

Ivàn. They lie, the messengers!
Hang them all up! Death to the one who saith
That I 'm defeated! *My* troops cannot be
Defeated. The tidings of *my* victory
Must come. And see that the Te Deum now
For victory be sung through all the churches.

[*Sinks back feebly on the throne.*

ACT IV.

SCENE I.—*A public place in the quarter beyond the Moskva. On one side are corn-shops. The Kremlin is seen beyond the river. Twilight. A crowd assembled before one of the shops.*

Cornchandler. Be off with you ! Again ye're hustling here.

Ye have been told the price. 'Tis seven alteens
For each half-quarter.

1st Workman. Good man, thou hast bowels ;
Let us off something, if but one alteen.

2nd Workman. Four days we've eaten nothing.

3rd Workman. In God's name !

4th Workman. Have some pity, neighbour. Hand
me a measure,

And score it up. By Easter I will pay,
So help me, Christ !

Cornchandler. Get out of that ! By Easter !
'Tis likely I'll my master's goods give out
On credit. Move on with ye, when told, there.

[Fighting.]

1st Workman. Thou cannibal ! wouldst starve us
out ?

2nd Workman. Thou 'st better

Cut all our throats at once.

3rd Workman. False thief and rogue !

4th Workman. Dog of a Jew ! Canst eat up all thyself ?

Cornchandler. Ho, help there, help ! They're breaking up my shop.

[Enter two Prèestaffs.

1st Prèestaff. What is this noise ? Who makes all this disturbance ?

Cornchandler. Help, 'tis a revolt ! They'll have my door down.

1st Workman. We 're wronged, good sirs. Stand by us.

2nd Workman. Bid him bate

His prices, sirs.

3rd Workman. Don't let us die of hunger.

Cornchandler. They were going to plunder me.

1st Workman. He lies !

He fights himself. He 's all but crippled more

Than one of us.

1st Prèestaff (to Cornchandler). How dare'st thou honest men

Thus cripple ? Hah !

2nd Prèestaff. To jail with him ! He 'll answer T' th' law.

Cornchandler. Good sirs, but look ye now ; for what

The jail? I stood up for my master's goods.

[*Slips money into their hands.*

1st *Prèestaff.* Oh, if 'tis so!

2nd *Prèestaff.* Why not say so at first?

1st *Prèestaff (to the people).* Away, ye thieves! I'll give it ye, away!

2nd *Prèestaff.* To the torture with 'em! To the jail!

[*The crowd draw back.*

Ah, ah!

[*Exeunt both Prèestaffs.*

Cornchandler (looking after them). The cheating villains see, along the market

Peering to find another they may fleece.

1st *Workman.* And served thee right.

2nd *Workman.* May thy hoards choke thee till Thou burst!

3rd *Workman.* We die from hunger here, and he Sits, like a rat snug in a bin of corn, And sulks.

[*Exit Cornchandler.*

4th *Workman.* The Prèestaffs got it out of him.

1st *Workman.* They are appointed, friend, to keep good order.

4th *Workman.* Fine order, truly. Would the Tzar might know!

1st *Workman.* In former days, the Tzar, for taking bribes,

Punished them nicely. I myself saw it.
 Once, nine men swung together : from their necks
 Were hanging all the bribes they 'd taken.

2nd Workman.

Yes,

The Tzar let none bear hard upon the people.
 He used to stand upon the Palace stairs,
 Taking himself from any hand petitions,
 And form a Court. The trial was not long :
 Th' offender, even though a Prince or Waywode,
 Once detected, and his head was off.

Enter Keekeen, who joins the group : he is disguised as a pilgrim, in a black under-cassock, and carries a stick and beads.

Keekeen. Thus [it was once, my sons, thus it was once.

Those times have passed. Now, for our sins, the Tzar
 Hath his eyes blinded by an enemy.
 In these days, not the Tzar, but Godundoff,
 Doth govern all. With his eyes sees the Tzar,
 And not his own.

[*The people crowd round Keekeen.*

Ye heard the Cornchandler ?

His master's goods—not his. And who the master ?
 Why, 'tis Godundoff. Who is the cause that
 Prices rise ? Again, 'tis Godundoff. Easy
 To say fourteen alteens here for a quarter

Of rye. Were 't not for Godunoff, you 'd have it
At most for two alteens.

[*Murmurs among the people.*

Ah, we the Lord

Have angered, brethren. These our pains are just.
We look upon our sins, and fold our arms
The while this heretic gets round the Tzar,
Aye, aye, gets round him.

[*The murmurs increase.*

It is not for nothing

That the Lord hath set His sign before ye.
The star that hath a blood-red tail—I think
Ye must have seen it?

1st Workman. How! Not see it?

2nd Workman. There,

Over the tower, these many nights it
Rises.

3rd Workman. And there it will appear again
As soon as the sky darkens.

Kedkeen. It shows us
The awful anger o' th' Almighty. 'Tis
His fiery sword raised over us, that we
Have left the Tzar, and with him all the land
T' th' insults of a wicked heretic.

1st Workman. How came this known to thee?

Kedkeen. I roam, my sons,
All holy places through. At Solovki

I 've been, and, on the Mount of Athos, in
 Jerusalem, heard talk of all ; o'er seas
 Have sailed, and tramped it over lands ;
 Have seen the great whale-fish, and Eôstrafeel
 The bird, with Alateer the stone all white
 That burns i' th' fire. I come now from Kiëff.
 A mighty miracle hath just been wrought there.
 From out Sophia's cross a loud voice came :
 It prophesied unto the Russian people
 Ruin for that they bore with Godundoff.

1st Workman. Comrades, ye hear now what the
 pilgrim saith ?

Keëkeen. And then the voice pronounced, Christians,
 arise !

And gird ye up your loins 'gainst Godundoff ;
 For he it is that bringeth woe on Russia.

2nd Workman. Hearken ; take note on 't. All our
 ills do come

From Godundoff.

Keëkeen. 'Tis so, 'tis so, my sons—
 From Godundoff. He doth forestall the corn ;
 He spreads the pest ; he calls the King to Russia ;
 He boasts that he will stir the Khan 'gainst Moscow.

3rd Workman. Come, boys, it has the look on 't.
 If 'tis true

That he alone 's in fault, we 'll settle him.

4th Workman. But is it true ?

Keekken.

It is the sober truth.

A sin, my sons, if we God's voice believe not.

5th Workman. Thou 'st heard it with thine own ears, Pilgrim ?

Keekken.

Yes ;

'Twas when the people out of church were thronging From vespers, all ablaze Sophia's cross

Appeared ; and from it sounded forth a voice.

Not I alone, but all the men of Kiéff,

Heard it, and all in fear fell prone to earth.

3rd Workman. What say ye, boys ? If all the town of Kiéff

Did hear the voice, it stands to reason that

'Tis true.

[*Talking among the people.*

In truth, 'tis true. 'Tis clear that Godundoff's

A traitor ! Yes, a traitor and a conjurer !

'Tis he that draws on us the wrath of God,

The Antichrist !

1st Workman. Eh, what is that, friends ? Enough, A sin in you to blacken him.

2nd Workman. A sin,

Indeed ; of Godundoff we 've only, comrades,

Heard what 's good.

[*Cries among the people.*

The simpletons ! Don't hear them.

They take the conjurer's part ; let 'em look out for it.

Down with the first that speaks up for the thief !
 He buys our corn up ; he is Antichrist ;
 He 's caused our misery ; let 's do for him.
 What are we waiting for ?

[*The voice of Beetiagòffski heard singing a rollicking song.*

Beetiagòffski (singing without)—

“ Come here, my gall, that loves a glass,
 That 's paid me many a spree,
 And tell what thou dost carry there,
 Under thy frock to me ? ”

1st Workman. Who 's bawling there ? What, doth
 he come to mock us

At such a time as this with noisy catches ?

Beetiagòffski enters with his cap on one side, and his coat unbuttoned.

Beetiagòffski—

“ I come just from the beershop, boys,
 A frolicking along,
 And carry a psaltry 'neath my frock
 To sing with ye a song.”

Kékeen (to Beetiagòffski). My child, a heavy sin, at
 such a time

As this, when God is wrath with us, and when
 His sign appeareth in the heavens, the while
 He sendeth hunger and affliction on
 The earth, a heavy sin it is, to vanity

To give ourselves, and yield us up to pleasures
 O' th' world, and gladden with idle speech
 And song-singing the devil in hell !

Beetiagoffski. Friend,
 Thou 'st mouthed it well. It is a pity only
 Thou 'rt wide o' th' mark ! When shall we make us
 merry
 If not now ? Then ye 've not heard of yet, boys,
 The boon that God has sent us.

Several voices. What boon ? Speak !
 What boon is it ?

Beetiagoffski. Why, look ye here, boys, listen !
 The two Boyars, Prince Shouiski, aye, and Belski—
 May God deal with them—have resolved—may they
 In rosin in the next world burn for it—
 Resolved the Tzar to poison.

Several voices. Hear, boys ! Listen !
 [Keekken makes signs to Beetiagoffski.
Beetiagoffski (paying no attention to him). God
 would not let such sin be worked out. So,
 Their villainy being known to Godunoff,
 The self-same pie which for the Tzar they 'd cooked
 He threw unto a dog. The dog no sooner
 Had eaten than it died.

The People. The villains they !
 The cursed rogues ! But who, then, saidst thou, who
 Did save the Tzar ? Who gave the dog the pie ?

Beetiagòffski. "Tis well known who. The Boyar Godundòff.

And who else could it be? By day, by night
He watches o'er the Tzar. And long ago
Had he not been there, would the cursed Bèlski,
With Shouïiski's help, have put an end to
The whole line of our Tzars.

1st Workman (to Keèkeen). What didst thou say,
That Godundòff was traitor?

Keèkeen. Yes, a traitor!

Or God to no end hath upon us sent
For his sake signs and famine.

[*Aside to Beetiagòffski.*

Art thou mad?

Or hast thou drowned thy wits in wine?

2nd Workman (to Keèkeen). How traitor,
If he the Tzar hath saved from death?

3rd Workman (to Beetiagòffski). Come, friend,
Have done with that. This Pilgrim here hath heard
Himself, how that God's voice from out the Cross
Did Godundòff denounce.

Beetiagòffski. A Pilgrim here?

Where is he? That man, eh? Ha, ha! Ha, ha!
Fine Pilgrim he! Why, he's Prokòphi Keèkeen,
A noble from Rezàn. We've often with him
Run all the taverns through. He from Rezàn
Hath not tramped further than to Moscow here.

[*Slapping Keèkeen on the shoulder.*

Prokðphi Seèlitch, would'st thou hoax me, man ?
Thou'st figged thee out like any Lazarus.

Keèkeen (in a whisper to Beetiagòffski). Art thou, then, cracked ?

Beetiagòffski (in a whisper to Keèkeen.) For whom art thou ?

Keèkeen (in a whisper to Beetiagòffski). What's that, For whom ? I am for Bèlski. We both took Bèlski's price.

Beetiagòffski (with contempt). Thou'st need to get thee up, man,
A little earlier.

Keèkeen. Ah ! then thou play'st The Judas with us ? Wait awhile, and see If I don't Bèlski tell of this.

Beetiagòffski. Fear not, Thou wilt not have the chance. Bind him, my boys ! Shouïski and Bèlski have sent him to us.

Keèkeen. No, 'tis not true : bind him ! From Godundòff He's sent to us.

The People. Who can make them out ? We're hoaxed

By one of them. Ho, boys, let's waste no time, But hang 'em both up ! Why hang both ? Enough With one ! But which one ? Why, the first ? The second ?

No, the first.

[*The roll of tabours heard without. Gregòri Godunòff appears on horseback, with two heralds. Another crowd follows them.*

The People. Hold hard there, boys ! Hush ! Silence !

A Boyar with heralds ! Keep ye still there.

He means to speak to us. Silence all ! Listen !

He 's speaking.

Gregòri Godunòff (speaking from horseback). Ye men of the River Quarter, People of Moscow and the villages, The servant of the Tzar, his trusted Boyar, Boris Fedòrovitch Godunòff, Sendeth you greeting. Filled with sorrow for Your fate, and knowing all your difficulties, The pestilence and high price now of rye, All that of bread stored there is yet in Moscow He hath, of his own means, bought up and ordered That without payment it be given out To you to-morrow, for the which he asks Your prayers for him and for his health.

The People.

A father

He to us ! God give him health ! He feeds the poor !

Hark to him, Godunòff will give out bread

For nothing to us. Lord God, watch over him !

Return it him a hundred fold. Long life

To Boyar Godunòff. Ah ! who was it

Called him our enemy ? Where is the thief, the dog ?

We'll tear him limb from limb.

[Keèkeen tries to run off; the mob throw themselves on him with cries.

Down with him ! Down !

Stop him !

Beetiagòffski (laying his hand on Keèkeen's girdle). Well fool, what hast made by it ? The next time look and see from where the wind blows.

SCENE II.—*The inner chamber of the Tzar. Night.*

The Tzaritza Maria Feòdorovna, the Tzarëvna Ireëna Feòdorovna, and Maria Gregòrovna are looking out of the window: on a sky covered with stars stand out the towers of the Kremlin and the tops of many churches. Between the church of the Annunciation and that of Ivàn is seen a large comet.

Maria Godunòva (to *Ireëna*). Look, sister mine, see there how far the star
Hath spread its tail ! It covers half the sky
Exactly o'er the town.

Ireëna. It seems to grow each night
Larger and more distinct.

Enter the *Tzarëvitch Feòdor Ivànovitch*.
Feòdor (pulling *Ireëna* by the sleeve.) Have done,
Ireëna !

Enough ! go thou away ; it is not well
To look at that too long ; it is not there
For any good it brings.

Tzaritza (*to Feòdor*). Where is the Tzar ?
Can he be looking still upon the sign ?

Feòdor. Yes, Madam. On the steps he 's standing
still,
And looking at the star. I wished to speak
With him, but was afraid. He looks and never
Speaks a word, and around him stand the Boyars,
Not daring e'en to raise their eyes to him.

Tzaritza (*thoughtfully*). How many evenings is 't
that he doth stand
And gaze upon the star !

Ireèna. And every time
Comes back still gloomier, and utters not
A word.

Feòdor. Unwelcome tidings trouble him.

Ireèna. Is 't true the Khan hath now drawn near
the Oka ?

Feòdor. Boris declared that it was true in all
points. Fearful
To think of it ! I wished myself to go
Afoot to Troitski, there to say a mass,
But knew not how to ask my father.

Ireèna. Ah !
God help us ! We 've misfortune on all sides !

Is not the star there come to warn us of it ?

Marià Godunòva. God only knows ! Not long ago
some Wizards

And Fortune-tellers, whom the Tzar had given
Orders to seek, were brought here, that they might
Inform him why it thus appeared.

Tzaritza. What, Wizard,
God forbid ! Has the Tzar seen them ?

Feòdor. No, Madam ;
Boris, however, told me that already
Have they together been divining, and
Should bring to-day their answer to my father.

Ireèna. They say that he hath sent to fetch some
Monk

Or other.

Feòdor. Yes, Ireèna ; from Boris
I heard that he had sent. A holy man that
These thirty years and more he leads a life
Of anchorite. The Tzar would ask advice
From him.

Tzaritza. God grant the Monk may counsel him !

Ireèna. God grant it ! Why should he for Wizards
seek,

And lay a sin upon his soul ?

Feòdor (looking around). Ireèna,
Hush ! In the vestibule I think I hear
What should be my father's steps.

Stolneek (hastily opening the door, and speaking in a whisper). The Tzar comes !

Enter Iván, leaning with one hand on his staff, and with the other on the shoulder of Godunoff. He is followed by the Boyars.

Iván (to Feòdor and the women). Come hither, all of ye ! All now approach

And listen !

[*Sits down.*

I have understood the sign.

The Wizards whom I bade them seek will tell me
Nothing new—myself I 've understood it.

[*A silence. Feòdor gently pushes Ireëna forward.*

Ireëna (timidly to Iván). O Tzar, my father.....let
me ask of thee,

What hast thou understood ?

Iván. Ye see yon star ?

It is the harbinger of death to me.

Feòdor (throwing himself on his knees). What is it
thou say'st, my father ? What dost mean ?

Iván. Get up, and whimper not. Thou wilt have
time

To whimper yet. First must thou take the kingdom
Upon thy shoulders. Get thee up, I tell thee.

[*The women raise a cry.*

Be quiet, hussies ! There 'll be time for that.

Send for a doctor. I, Tzaritza Maria,

Not long since spoke not well to thee : forget it.
 Son Fedor, in an hour of heavy troubles
 Thou mountest on the throne : hast thou bethought
 thee

What thou wilt do when I am gone ?

Fedor. Tzar, father !

When thou forsake'st us, what will be I know not.

Ivàn. But thou must know. Thou 'lt soon be Tzar,
 Thou canst not

For ever ring a funeral peal. Wilt thou
 The war go on with, or wilt with Bathory
 A peace conclude ?

Fedor. Father, which way wouldest thou
 Command me act ?

Ivàn. According to my sins
 Is punishment from God dealt out to me.
 Ivàn, Ivàn ! Mine eldest-born, Ivàn !
 Thou wouldest not thus have answered me. Ho,
 doctor !

Enter Doctor Jacobi.

Ah ! there thou art ! Well ? Of what use to me
 Thy science ? Die I must. Say, then, when shall I
 Die ? Speak, man ! I do wish to know.

Jacobi (feeling Ivàn's pulse). Great Tzar !
 Thou 'rt ill, but hast no cause to die.

Ivàn. 'Tis false !
 I shall die, I know it well. The star,

The blood-red star ! Am I, then, blind ? I all
Have understood.

Jacobi. If thou, O Tzar, in thine own mind
dost cease

Thyself to do thee injury, thou wilt
Be well. I 'm ready to answer for it
With my head to thee.

Ivan. Thou liest ! The Boyars
Have bought thee. Kourbski and my sworn enemies
Have bought thee, that I die without repentance.
Ah ! who bought thee ?

Jacobi. Great Tzar ! from over-watching
Thy brain is irritated, blood inflamed.
Permit that I a sleeping draught prepare,
And it will calm and freshen thee.

Ivan. I will not
Die without repentance. Man, dost hear ?
I yet have time before me for repentance.

[*To the Boyars.*

I yet have time, though it should vex ye. Let
The Wizards in. From them I will inform me
When that mine hour cometh. Till then I 'm Tzar.
I yet can punish him among you who
Shall wish that I may die like any cur,
Without repentance.

Enter two Wizards.

Here they are. Why are there

But two of ye? Where are the rest?

1st Wizard.

O, Tzar!

Together we in Raffli and Sodaja

Three days have read. We two are sent to thee
With our common answer by the rest.

Ivan.

Hah!

What is it?

2nd Wizard. We're afraid to speak it, Tzar!

Ivan. I know it all. My death? Tell me at once!

1st Wizard. 'Tis so, Tzar!

Ivan.

When?

1st Wizard.

When Cyril's

day comes.

2nd Wizard. On Cyril's day, the eighteenth day of
March.

Ivan (aside). The eighteenth day of March! 'Tis
soon! I thought

'Twould later be: I deemed it not so near!

[To the Wizards.

Whence are ye?

1st Wizard. I was born a Finn.

2nd Wizard.

And I

A Lithuanian.

Ivan. But who, then, taught ye
To juggle, and the stars interpret?

1st Wizard.

We,

Through generations that have handed it

To generations down, received it from
Our ancestors.

Ivàn. Ye 're Christians.

2nd Wizard. We have been
Christened, Tzar.

Ivàn. Is 't known to ye, ye cursed ones,
That conjuring is not tolerated
By our most holy Church ?

1st Wizard. By thine own order
Cast we our divinations.

Ivàn. By my order
Wizards are punished. I 'll have ye covered o'er,
While yet alive, up to your evil mouths,
In earth.

2nd Wizard. We 're not in fault, Tzar ! Th'
power is not ours
Out of our mouths that speaks to thee.

Ivàn. Whose, then ?

1st Wizard. Ask not.

2nd Wizard. Ask us not, Tzar ; thou
know'st thyself.

Ivàn. No ! I call God to witness, I reject
That power. As for ye, apostates, I
Will give you up unto the Church. Put irons
On them both, and with the rest together
Let them be led to prison.

[*The Wizards are removed.*

I

The eighteenth
 Of March ! few days are left to me. My time
 To go before the Judge is come. But I
 Will give my foes no hold to triumph o'er me,
 And with the world will settle all accounts.

[*To Godunoff.*

Boris ! go to my bed-chamber : there lieth
 Upon the shelf, under the image, what
 I had begun,—a list of all my dead ;
 Bring it me here.

[*Exit Godunoff.* *Ivàn continues, looking askance upon the Boyars.*

Not one of those whom I
 Have ever punished for their treason will I
 Now leave unhelped by masses for their souls,—
 Not one ! For the repose of each I 'll leave,
 E'en of the meanest thrall, an ample sum.
 What have ye gained ?

[*Godunoff enters with a paper.*

Come hither. So, that is
 The very list. Read it aloud—take thou
 A pen—and if I can some other still
 Remember, write thou down his name.

Godunoff (takes a pen and reads). “ O Lord,
 Take thou unto thy rest the Boyar Michael,
 Th' Okólnitchi Ivàn and Peter, with
 The Boyar Vasilii and his wife, and also
 Their thralls to the number of thirty men.

Have mercy on the Waywode Prince Gregòri,
 With his Princess, and with their two young daughters,
 Aye, and their infant son, counting to them
 Of their thralls a hundred and twenty men ;
 On the Boyar Jacob Prince, with his Princess
 Maria, and th' Princess Elizabeth,
 Th' two young Princes Nikìta and Ivàn,
 And thralls of theirs, mounting to forty men ;
 Likewise upon the Abbots, Cornelius,
 Bassiànus, th' Prelate Leonidas,
 And with them fifteen monks.....”

Ivàn.

Hold there—fifteen ?

There were more of them : write thou down twenty.

Godunòff (writes and continues). “ Pardon, O Lord,
 and take unto thy rest

The peasants of the confiscated hamlets
 And villages of one Mordsoff Boyar,
 Counting a thousand two hundred ; three old men
 Baited by bears ; nine wives brought back from Pskoff,
 All the besieged who took the King surrendered,
 And were by him set free, amounting to
 Two thousand.....They that dwelt in Nòvgorod
 Slaughtered and drowned, up to twelve thousand there,
 Their names, O Lord, are known to thee !.....”

Ivàn.

Hold there !

Some one is speaking at the door.

[*Bèlski goes out and returns.*

Belski.

O, Tzar !

Thy Steward from Sloboda hath arrived.

Ivan. At such a time ? By night ? What, then, hath happened ?

Call him hither.

Enter Steward.

Why art thou come ?

Steward.

Great Tzar !

The wrath of God is on us. Yester morn

The thunder struck the attic which is thine,

And burnt it up to ashes.

Ivan. Now ? In winter ?*Steward.* God's wrath, O Tzar ! A frosty, cloudless morning,

And there was thunder. Into thy bed-chamber With a crash the lightning passed, and suddenly The palace burst out in flame. There is not One o' th' oldest inhabitants remembers A thunder-storm in winter.

Ivan (aside). Yes ! It is

God's wrath ! Within that room I put to death My son ; there fell he, 'tween the door and window— Gave but one cry and fell—tried to hold on by The curtain, but could not—and fell at once— And blood upon the curtain spirted from His wound.

[*Shudders.*

What noise was that ? Boris, put by,
 Put by that list now ; we 'll end it later.
 D' ye hear ? What is that scraping 'neath the floor ?
 D' ye hear ? Again ! Again ! Still nearer ! Yes,
 God brings to life again ! I still am Tzar !
 My time hath not yet come ! I still am Tzar !
 I hold the power of repentance ! Fedor,
 Irene, Maria ! Stand here—one next
 To other. Nearer, so Boyars ! Stand ye
 All in a line before me here—what fear ye ?
 Nearer ! I of all.

[*Bowing himself to the ground.*
 Of all ask pardon.

Bèlski (in a whisper to Shouiski). God pardon us !

Shouiski (in a whisper to Bèlski). Let us be care-
 ful ; may be

He is proving us.

Ivan (kneeling). Ye, my faithful slaves
 And servants ! There is not one among you
 Whom I have not by act and word offended.
 Forgive it me ! Thou, Bèlski ; thou, Zachàrin ;
 Thou, Prince Mstislàffski ; thou Prince Shouiski ;
 thou.....

Shouiski. What say' st thou, Tzar ? Is it for thee
 to beg
 Pardon of us ?

Ivan. Peace, thrall ! I hold the power

T' repent and to abase me before whom
 I will. Peace, then, and listen : I repent.
 There is no measure for my sins, nor number.
 In soul a beast, in mind corrupted, I,
 Seduced by the glitter of the purple,
 Defiled have my head with pride,
 My lips with oaths, my tongue with ribaldry,
 My hands with murder and the theft of gold ;
 Th' belly with drunkenness and dainty dishes,
 The loins with sin that's unpronounceable.
 Boyars, I pray ye all forgive me here ;
 Give all of ye forgiveness to your Tzar !

[*Bows himself to the ground.*]

Zacharin. Great Tzar ! if that it be the will of God
 Thou shouldst this world leave for eternity,
 Then it behoves thee now of thine affairs
 To think, and of the war which thou dost leave
 A heritage unto thy son. Thy sins
 We all do from our hearts forgive thee, and
 All pray to God for thee.

Ivan. Thou'rt right, old man.
 Son, Fedor, come thou here. A few days more,
 And thou wilt sit upon the throne. Now, listen
 To my last instructions.

[*Lets himself fall into an arm-chair.*]

Do thou govern
 With love, and piety, and mildness. Put

On no man vainly either punishment
Or confiscation. On mine enemies
By whom I from the throne was driven, forced
To seek me out, like any pilgrim poor,
A refuge throughout Russia, do thou not
Avenge me. The Almighty judges us.
Watch over and be kind to my Tzaritza,
Thy step-mother; with thy brother, Demetri,
Be thou as one; desire not to usurp
His appanage. Though Cain did Abel slay,
He got not by his crime a heritage.
Try thou to end the war wi' Lithuania
By a peace, and then twin all thy forces
Against the Khan. Consult thee with Boris;
Put trust in him; he doth believe in my
Directions, and in matters of the Council
I've found him from his youth well versed.
He may at first act for thee well enough,
But afterwards give thyself use in all
That doth relate to the legations, or
To war, or to the courts, that not to thee
Should others, but thou to them in all things,
May prescribe. Wilt thou again establish
Th' Opritchina, or wilt thou rule thyself
O'er all the land? Be it as thou dost will:
Decide thyself how most 'twill benefit
Thyself and brother. Now, the model for

Thy conduct stands there complete before thee :
Hast understood it all ?

Fëodor. Father ! God grant
That thou die not ! God grant unto my prayers
That thou mayst still outlive me ! Am I fit
To reign ? Thou thyself knowest I am ill
Prepared for it.

Ivàn (angrily). Fëodor ! thou art not asked
If that it liketh or misliketh thee :
Thou after me upon the throne must sit
When I am gone.

Fëodor. Be thou not angry, father ;
But, I pray thee, appoint another. Russia
Hath many worthier and better far,
And I—O father, Tzar !—would be content
With a small appanage.

Ivàn. O thou beffrocked !
I speak with thee as with a man, and thou
Like an old woman answerest ! Woe ! Woe !
Brother son-murder for his brother venges.
Ivàn, my son ! my son that I have slain !
Have I my whole life passed in strife, the strength
O' th' Boyars broken, reduced all disobedience,
Crushed treason round me, placed on such a height
My blood-steeped and hereditary throne,
That all should suddenly break down with me ?

Gregòri Nagòi enters with papers.

Greg. Nagòi. Great Tzar ! two letters for thee.

Ivàn. Give them to

Boris : let him read through them.

Godunòff (after looking at both letters). Tzar, they write

From Serpouchòff that the Khan across the Oka
Prepares to float his troops ; and from Kazàn
That all around have risen in the plains,
The Tcheremèes, and with them the Nogàys.

Ivàn. No ! All together on one head there cannot
So many evils fall : I don't believe it.
No ! Give here the sheets.

[*Godunòff gives him the letters. He looks into them for some time, lets them fall, and stands motionless.*

Enter Stòlneek, who whispers in the ear of Bèlski.

Bèlski. Great Tzar ! the Anchorite
Whom thou didst send for hath arrived.

Ivàn (shuddering). Admit him.
Go all away : I 'd be with him alone.

[*Exeunt.*

Ivàn (alone). Almighty God ! take darkness from
my mind.

[*He remains lost in thought. After some seconds the Anchorite enters. Ivàn rises, and bends down his head before him.*

Bless me, my father !

Anchorite (blessing him). In the name of God
The Father, and the Son, and Holy Ghost.

Ivàn (sitting down). I have heard much of thee.
Thou long hast lived
A solitary life. Within thy cell
To worldly vanity thou hast shut off
All access to thy sight and hearing. God
To men like thee a second sight hath given,
Marvellous, and from their lips truth speaks.

Anchorite. E'en so, my son ; there are i' th' Book
of Martyrs

Examples of it ; but from such men I
Am far removed.

Ivàn. Hast thou long ta'en the vows ?

Anchorite. In the same year that thou didst conquer,
Tzar,

Kazàn ; but from that time how many years
Have passed I know not.

Ivàn. Thirty years ago ;
And from that very time thou hast shut out
The world from thee ?

Anchorite. To-day I see it
Again for the first time. I have been brought
By force here from my cell wrought out
Under the ground.

Ivàn. Forgive me, holy father,
That I disturbed thy solitude and prayers ;

But I had need of counsel from thee. Say,
Direct me, what must I do to ward off
Ruin from the whole country and the throne ?

Anchorite. Ruin ! What ruin ?

Ivàn. Dost thou not know, then ?

Anchorite. I know not, my son ; news reach me not.

Ivàn. Father,

God for my sins chastiseth me. He giveth
Victory o'er me to the King ; the Khan
Marches his hordes on Moscow ; the Nogàys
And Tcheremèes are rising in revolt.

What should I do ?

Anchorite. Great are the changes that
Since then have come to pass. Then terrible
Wast thou unto thy foes. Thou stoodest high ;
None dared to rise against thee ; we, the sign
Of which we at thy birth were witnesses,
Have oft remembered : in the very hour
When thou wast born, thunder was heard in heaven,
And all day rumbled, while the sun still shone ;
And thus it was all Russia through ; and many
A hermit came from foreign lands to bless
Thy cradle, and predict to thee thy greatness.

Ivàn. E'en so, my father. And long God showed
to me

His mercy ; but He now His right hand hath
Withdrawn from me. My throne is tottering ;

On all sides enemies do straiten me.

Anchorite. Send out thy leaders 'gainst them ; Way-wodes thou

Hast got enough. They are well used for thee
The heathen to subject.

Ivàn. My holy father,
The leaders whom thou speakest of are gone.

Anchorite. Not one left yet ? Ah ! where is Gorbàti
—Shouïski,

Prince Alexander Borïsovitch, who
Defeated on the Volga Prince Yapanchà ?

Ivàn. He did betray me, and was punished.

Anchorite. What !
Gorbàti ? He a faithful servant was
To thee. But where 's Prince Riàpolàffski, he
Who gained so many wide-famed victories
Over the Khan ?

Ivàn. Punished.

Anchorite. But then Fedòroff,
Thine Equery, who i' th' plains of Rezàn,
Broke up the hordes, and captive took Mamaïa,
The Tzarèvitch ?

Ivàn. I killed him, for he would
Have stolen my throne from me.

Anchorite. O Tzar ! I hear not
The ring of truth in what thou speakest. All
These men did serve thee faithfully. I knew

Them all. But still there did remain to thee
 The Boyar Prince Michael Vorotìnski.
 When that we took Kazàn, he was the first
 To plant the Cross upon the hostile wall.
 The foe well knew him.

Ivàn. He died upon the rack.

Anchorite. Prince Vorotìnski? Tzar! Where, then,
 is Pronski,

Prince Turutài, who in a wide-famed fight,
 Under the walls of Pskoff, routed well
 The Lithuanians?

Ivàn. Drowned.

Anchorite. God's mercy keep thee!.....

But Koùrbski, Prince Andrew Michàilovitch,
 The sharer of thy exploits in the days,
 The good old days of the Kazàn?

Ivàn. Ask not
 About him. He cast me off—betrayed me,
 And to the foe went into Lithuania.

Anchorite. In the good times, I well remember me,
 Men loved thee; none did flee from thee; they crowded
 From distant lands to serve with thee. But where
 Is Prince Stcherbàti, Stcheniàteff? Where is
 Oboleùski?

Ivàn. My father, name them not;
 They're gone.

Anchorite. But Kàsheen? Bùtourleen? Mordsoff?
 Serèbrani?

Ivàn. All punished.

Anchorite. What? T' th' last?

Ivàn. All, father, all.

Anchorite. All perished by thee?

Ivàn.

All.

[*A silence.*]

I do repent, my father. I 've not long
To live. I know that I must die ; the time
Already is appointed me.

Anchorite. Who to thee
Hath a time appointed?

Ivàn. Ask me not, father,
Ask not ; but teach me how to save my kingdom.

Anchorite. If thou wert not both weak and sickly, I
Should say to thee, Tzar rise ! and lead to war,
In a sacred cause, thy troops, thyself. But
Sickness bows thee. I in thee recall not
The warrior of Kazàn ; thine armies
Thou must hand over to another, one
Whose name alone all Russia would inspirit.
Thy son Ivàn must now be warrior grown :
Send him.

Ivàn (*rising quickly*). Monk ! didst thou name
him but to jeer me ?

Thou darest name Ivàn ? I 'll have thy tongue
Torn out !

Anchorite. Thine anger, Tzar, no terrors hath
For me ; although I understand it not :

I have for long awaited death, my son.

Ivàn (*sitting down*). Forgive me, holy father ;
thou 'lt forgive me !

But hast thou really nothing heard ? Have really
No tidings pierced unto thy dwelling ?

Anchorite.

Unto

This day the door of that my dwelling hath
Been closed up ; into the dumb vault there pierced,
Alone, the deadened wail of storms from God,
And the weak tinkling of the holy bells.

Ivàn. My father, I cannot thy counsel follow :
My son Ivàn is dead !

Anchorite.

Who now succeeds thee ?

Ivàn. My second son Fedòr ; but in mind
And body is he weak. Useless to think
Of getting aid or energy from him.

Anchorite. Then, of thy God must thou ask aid.

Ivàn.

And thou

No more instructions, none, hast got for me ?

Anchorite. Tzar, bid them lead me back unto my cell.

Ivàn (*rising*). Pray for me, holy father !

Anchorite.

May the peace

Of God all-merciful be on thy conscience !

Ivàn (*conducts the Anchorite, and opening the door
speaks to those without*). Lead back the holy
father to his dwelling.

Ye all may enter now.

Fëdor and the Boyars enter.

Ivàn (sitting down, and speaking after a moment's silence). Mstislàffski ! Bèlski !

Zachàrin ! Godunòff ! Kiss ye the Cross
 That ye will Fëdor serve to death ; and to
 The last drop of your blood. Thou, Fëdor, trust
 All four of them. Nothing begin without
 Their counsel. If it please to God that Prince
 Ivàn Petròvitch Shouïski do at Pskoff
 Keep whole and sound, he 'll be to thee a fifth ;
 To them do I bequeath, with thee together,
 To rule o' er Russia !

[Hands to them the Cross on his breast.
 Kiss this Cross.

*Mstislàffski, Zachàrin, Bèlski, and Godunoff (putting
 their lips to the Cross).* O Tzar,

We kiss it.

Ivàn. Send Envoys this very night
 To Lithuania, and a certain peace,
 Cost what it may, make with Bathòry, though
 It be but for a time. " I do salute
 My well-belovèd brother, King Stephàn."
 And write him out his titles all in full ;
 Name him, in closing, Sovereign of Livonia
 'Tis thus he wills, " I do salute my well-
 Belovèd brother as the Sovereign of
 Livonian lands, and I do pray that he

Would leave to me the single town of Yoùreff,
 And the remaining ones shall all be his."—
 I give up unto him the following towns—
 Velisj, Ousviàt, Ozèristcha, and Pàlotsk,
 Izbòrsk, Sebësj, Xolm, Zàvolcha, Ostròff,
 Gdoff, Nèvel, Lùki, Kràsni, and the rest,
 All the towns he hath taken from us, all.

[*Murmurs among the Boyars.*

Zachàrin. What say 'st thou, Tzar ? A shame to us
 to make
 Conditions such as these !

Metislàffski. O Tzar ! command us
 In person all t' th' fight against Bathòry,
 But bid us not disgrace ourselves !

Bèleski. If thou,
 O Tzar, permit, we 're ready here to offer up
 All that we have of fortune.

All the Boyars (speaking together). We will all
 Lay down our lives for thee ; we 'll sell our all ;
 We 'll pledge our lands ; we 'll hold out unto death ;
 We 'll shed our blood to the last drop ; we 'll die
 To the last man. But bid us not surrender
 Our Russian towns that dear are to our hearts.

Ivàn. Be still ! Am I, then, glad of it ? It cannot
 Be otherwise. Have ye forgotten that
 The Khan 's already under Moscow ? that
 The Tcheremées have risen ? that the Swedes

Threaten to march on Nòvgorod ?

Zachàrin.

But, Tzar,

Pskoff still is ours. Until it do surrender,
 Bathòry cannot turn his back upon it,
 He 'll go no further. Mutiny and plague,
 The want of money, and the want of food,
 Are all among his troops. Wait yet awhile ;
 Wait yet, and soon the siege he 'll raise ; retire,
 And give up to us all his conquests.

Ivàn.

No,

I cannot, cannot wait. The blood-red star
 Doth call me. King Bathòry will still more
 Demand from Feòdor. 'Tis impossible !

Béláki. But, Tzar, thou hearest : famine and revolt
 And plague are 'mong their troops. Can it be
 now—

Now—when by one united firm attack
 We might destroy them—that we must give up
 So much to them of Russian territory ?

Ivàn. We could not conquer. Have ye, then, for-
 gotten

That not to him, but me, yon star foretelleth
 Ruin ?

Zachàrin. Great Tzar ! if thou indeed must perish,
 Why wildest thou that Russia perish with thee ?

Mstislàffski. Our honour why wouldest thou hu-
 miliate ?

Ivan (proudly). When ransoming my sins before my death,

I myself humble,—I your sovereign,—

Then of your honour ye need little think.

Not one word more! Shouiski! thou by daylight

Get done a letter for me to Bathory,

And Poùshkin with his fellows bid, that, with

The light, they be prepared to start; command them

To have themselves in all their conferences

Of humble, mild, and quiet conduct, that

Abuse and insult they endure without

A murmur; that they bear with all.

The Boyars. No, Tzar, no! That cannot be! Thou mayst

Our lives and fortunes do with what thou wilt;

But at thy will our country's honour lies not.

No, Tzar! Such instructions not one will sign.

Ivan (rising). So thus ye keep your oath? So thus ye mind

The holy writings? On the self-same day

That I would from my throne descend, why did ye

All in a body pray me on the throne

To stay? Or I that day my power took

Bound to your sufferance? Or no longer I

Am that same Tzar, given by God to you,

Whom ye did choose again? Or ye have but

One answer to me, to obey? Or, may be,

So few days now are left to me to live,
 That to obey me is not worth your while ?
 Ye breakers of your oaths ! my time 's not come !
 I still am Tzar ! Which of ye dares to say
 I am not Tzar ? Down all ! I' th' dust before me !
 I am your sovereign !.....

[*He totters.*

Godunoff (holding him up). The Tzar is ill !
 Send for the doctors !

Ivan (held up by Godunoff). Furnish the Envoys,
 At once, on pain of instant cruel death !
 Bid them put up with all—endure all—all—
 Though 'twere a blow !

[*The Boyars retire.*

Almighty God ! Thou seest
 Thine anointed : is he sufficiently
 Humiliated now ?

ACT V.

SCENE I.—*Godunoff's house. Godunoff and his wife are conducting with low bows the Tzarèvitch Feòdor.*

Godunoff. Good bye, Tzarèvitch ! We are much beholden

For the honour to thee. Vex thee not further :
Thou seest Cyril's day is come, and with it
No mischance hath brought. On the contrary,
To-day the Tzar feels himself better, and
Good tidings have been sent to us : the Envoys
In time were turned back by the messenger
The Tzar sent after them. A flood prevents
The Khan from crossing the Oka ; and the King
Hath raised the siege of Pskoff. This news and others
Have done the Tzar much good. Wait yet awhile,
And he will soon be well again.

Maria Godunova.

Tzarèvitch,

Whither so fast ? Thou hast not tasted yet
The poor collation I had ready for thee.

Feòdor. Pardon me, sister-in-law. Though to-day
My father's health is better, still there is
Upon my heart a something that depresses.
Take thou not, brother-in-law, thy word back ;

All my hopes are in thee ; if aught should happen,
 As God forbid, I shall be lost as in
 A wood. Then thou must show me what to do.

Godunoff. Tzarèvitch, I am thy servant, thy faithful
 Thrall ; but if aught happen, look thou well to it.
 They will not let me serve thee ; all will then
 Strive to blacken me.

Fedor. But I will not believe them ;
 My father bade me listen to thee, and
 Rely on thee will I in all. Farewell,
 Boris ! Farewell, good sister-in-law !
 I pray you now give not yourselves the trouble.

[*Exit, accompanied by Godunoff.*]

Maria (alone). I would to God this day might
 sooner pass !

Whate'er my husband says, he is himself
 Not calm. I dreamt the live-long night of jewels,
 And saw a rounded pearl, and with his hands
 Rummaged the Tzar among them, and admiring
 The gems strewed round. Such dreams are of ill luck,
 And mean no good.

[*She stands thinking.*]

Godunoff (returns and looks at her). Maria, what
 ails thee ?

Maria. Forgive me. This day hath terrors for me !
 The Wizards.....

Godunoff. The Wizards lied ; the Tzar is

More alert. I myself saw him.

Godunoff (lowering his voice). In case
Aught happened—Say, Maria—we're alone—
Wouldst thou then, really !.....

Maria. No, my good Lord, no !
"Tis not for him, it is for thee I fear.

Godunoff. How? Fear for me?

Maria. Why, did not Fedor say
That, if aught happened, he would know not how
To act? That thou must then in all direct him?
Boris! what if to-day on thee should fall
The weight of the entire kingdom? If,
For revolts, for the famine, for the war,
For all, for all before the country thou
Must answer give?

Godunoff. If that should really happen
Which thou dost fear, with no weak hand would I
Then take the reins. It is not power that
I fear : I feel within me strength enough,
In her year of heaviest misfortune,
Russia to uphold. No, I do fear lest
The power that may fall unto my share
Be not an ample one. Whoever be
Protector of the kingdom, can but be
The shadow of the Tzar ; against the envy

Of others must he struggle, and the thought
 That's his he never can embody in
 An act self-covenanted, true to its aim,
 Perfect as when conceived, as I had done
 Had I been born upon the throne, and not
 A subject.

Maria. God be thanked that we are not
 Of birth illustrious. Fearful th' account
 That Kings must render !

Godunoff. And more fearful still
 Th' account *this* Tzar must give ! But thou for naught
 Alarm'st thyself. His sickness leaves him now,
 And many years, may be, shall pass before
 He have to render his account.

Maria. Thou art
 Thyself uneasy.

Godunoff. I'm at ease : all goes on
 For the best. The Wizards lied. Leave me now
 Maria ; go to thy room ; I've business.

[Exit *Maria*. *Godunoff* opens a side-door,
 and lets in two shackled Wizards. He
 then sits down, and looks at them intently
 in silence.

Godunoff (in a marked tone). To-day is Cyril's day,
 th' eighteenth of March.

1st Wizard. 'Tis so, my Lord.

Godunoff. The Tzar to-day is better.

2nd Wizard. God have him in His keeping !

Godunoff. You, it seems,
Were then mistaken when you named to him
This day as that on which he 'd die ?

1st Wizard. What we
Read in the stars, that did we say.

Godunoff. Why, then,
So soon hath sickness left him ?

1st Wizard. We know not ;
But a day is long, and the sun hath not
Yet set.

[*A silence.*

Godunoff. And ye divined for me, as I
Did bid you ?

1st Wizard (*looking round him*). We 've divined,
my Lord !

Godunoff. Ye may
Speak openly : here none can hear us. What
Have ye learned ?

1st Wizard. The constellations mingle
Thy destinies with those of crowned Tzars ;
But three stars are there that eclipse the while
Thy greatness. One of them will soon go out.

Godunoff. Speak clearer !

1st Wizard. Wider and brighter grows
thy path
The more it lengthens.

Godunoff. Whither does it lead ?

2nd Wizard. To what thy soul so long hath thirsted for,

That which thou durst not to thyself confess—
That shall be.

Godunoff. Wizards ! tell me plainly what
Awaits me in the future ?

Both Wizards (falling on their knees). When thou
sittest

Upon the throne a Tzar, remember thee,
O Boyar, of thy thralls !

Godunoff (rising). Are ye, then, mad ?

1st Wizard. 'Twas so when we divined.

Godunoff. Hush ! Silence ! Hush !

[Goes to the doors, examines them, and stands
before the Wizards.

Sorcerers ! could I believe in that
With which ye now would mystify me, 'twere
Better for you that ye were yet unborn !

1st Wizard. We speak what we do see. The signs
of heaven

We have read ; moreover we divined in
Blood and smoke, and alway i' th' foggy vapour
Saw thee upon the throne, the crown upon thee,
The royal mantle.....

Godunoff. Silence ! Silence ! When
Shall that of which ye 've spoken happen ?

1st Wizard.

When—

We know not.

Godunoff. Have I many years to reign ?

2nd Wizard. Thou 'lt reign but seven years.

Godunoff. If but seven days !

But how shall I to regal power reach ?

1st Wizard. We do not know.

Godunoff. Whom should I fear ?

2nd Wizard. Ask not.

Godunoff. I will know who my chief opponent is.

1st Wizard. His signs are seen but darkly.

Godunoff. Tell me them !

1st Wizard. He 's weak, but he is powerful.

2nd Wizard. Himself,

And not himself.

1st Wizard. Innocent towards all men.

2nd Wizard. Foe to the country, cause of many woes.

1st Wizard. Killed, but alive.

Godunoff. Such words are void of sense !

1st Wizard. 'Twas so when we divined. It is not given

To know more unto us.

Godunoff. It is enough for me. You will be led back To your prison ; with time I will give orders To enlarge, and to reward you royally, But, look ye here ! I do command you, under Pain of death, that ye yourselves forget what

Here ye have said to me.

[*Opens the door. Exeunt Wizards.*

“ To what so long my soul hath thirsted for,
That which I durst not to myself confess !”

Yes, it is so ! Now do I clearly see
What prize it was that ever shone so brightly.
Now onward, onward, must I step, and turn
Predictions into facts by deeds. Not fate
That bears us up above the crowd ; she only
Can put the chance within our hands. A man
Strong in himself doth wait not idly 'till
A miracle shall lift him up aloft.
He helpeth fate himself. The chance is there,
And it is time for me to act !

[*Stamps on the ground.*

Enter Steward.

Send here

One of the doctors of the Tzar.

[*Exit Steward.*

Seven years !

But seven years ! And whether far or near
That day, I may not know. Meanwhile the hours
Pass quickly. Through the madness of Ivàn
All crumbles, and my empire a mere wreck
Will come to me.....“ The sun hath not yet set !”
The Wizards said just now...Who knows ? Perhaps !...
Let that brute beast but die to-day, to-day

Will my weak-minded brother-in-law give up
To *me* his power. *I* shall be sovereign !.....

But was it that the Wizards promised ? No !
They in the crown, the mantle, on the throne,
I' th' crown and in the mantle, saw me. Thus
Spake they : " Three stars are there that do
eclipse

The while thy greatness—three !" Ivàn is one ;
The other—Fèdor the Tzarèvitch ; and
The third—who else, if not Demètri ? Who
Can that opponent be so powerful,
Whom I 'm to fear, if not the child Demètri ?
He, he doth bar me ! " Weak, but powerful ;
Innocent, but guilty ; himself, and not
Himself." It all doth meet exactly in
Demètri ! But what meaning, then, in this :
" Killed, but alive ?" How wildly in my ear
Resound the ominous and riddling words,
" Killed, but alive !" By whom will he be killed ?
It cannot be ! But if, in truth, the arm
To lift against him any did resolve,
Then how to bring the slain to life again ?
I seem to look into a dark abyss ;
Mine eyes are dim, and tangled are my thoughts.....
Enough ! Away with ye, unfruitful guesses !
Alive or killed, his fate is in the future,
And dear to me the passing instant now !

Enter Steward.

Steward. Boyar, the doctor of the Tzar is come.

Godunoff. Let him come in.

Enter Jacobi.

Romàn Eliazàritch,

I sent for thee to be informed exactly
How far the Tzar to-day is better. May we
Hope that all danger now is passed for him ?

Jacobi. His illness, Boyar, is not a simple one ;
His mind as well as body suffers. Used,
E'en from his youth, that all should bend before
His sovereign will, this last humiliation
Was too much. But now he 's heartened
And bettered by good tidings. And he will be
Well if we can succeed in keeping him
From all excitement.

Godunoff. But if, which God forbid, he should for
aught
Excite himself ?

Jacobi. Then could we answer not
For anything. The vessels which the blood
Do carry from and back unto the heart
Are so much strained, that any slight emotion
At once may burst them.

Godunoff. How, then, to prevent
That he be agitated ?

Jacobi. All occasion

To vex and to excite must be avoided,
 Hap what may : let him but see and listen to
 Whatever may divert.

Godunoff. When thou didst leave,
 How was he ?

Jacobi. After his bath he laid him
 Down to sleep, but gave to the Butler orders
 To carry meanwhile all the treasures from
 The great store out into a neighbouring room,
 That, on awaking, he might look them over.
 In attendance on him there remained
 My colleague, Richard Elms.

Godunoff. These same conditions
 For the recovery of the Tzar are hard ones
 To execute : you know his humour well.

Jacobi. The Boyar Bèlski, to withdraw his mind
 From cares and business, hath got together
 A mob of Fools and of Buffoons. Th' idea
 Is not a bad one. Let this day be passed
 In games and laughter.

Godunoff (rising). We will try to follow
 All thine instructions.

Jacobi. Craving your pardon,
 Boyar.

[*Exit. Godunoff stamps on the ground.*

Enter Steward.

Godunoff. Is Beetiagòffski here ?

Steward. He is,
My Lord.

Godunoff. Then send him hither.

[*The Steward goes out, and at once admits
Beetiaqoffski.*

What is doing

Among the people?

Beetiagoffske. God be praised !

Beetragoffski. To tearing them.

Godunoff. They 'll rise, then,
Upon them when we will ?

Beetiagdoffschi.

Godunoff. Hold thou thyself in readiness.

Before the Tzar that the Nagois a riot
Were now preparing.

Beetiagoffski.

Godunòff:

To take thy oath that thou, with thine own ears,
Hast heard how they did orders give their thralls
To go among the people.

Godunoff. Keep thee where I can lay my hands on
thee

To-day ; maybe that I shall want thee ; now

Begone !

[*Exit Beetiagoffaki.*

Godunoff (alone). I much mistake or else there shall
Be much decided ere this day be done.

[*Exit.*

SCENE II.—*A richly-furnished room in the Palace.*

*Servants are carrying and setting out a number of
valuable utensils and ornaments. The Steward and
Butler are looking after them.*

Steward (to Servants). Come, look alive there ! are
ye ready yet ?

The Tzar this moment will be up.

Butler (to Steward). Say, prithee,
For what good reason will he now look over
All these his articles of price ?

Steward. They say
That he will send rich gifts unto his bride
Beyond the sea.

Butler. How ? Has he not given up
The thought of marrying her ?

Steward. Oh, yes,
It was given up, but now to-day, it seems,
Again he's taken to it. See'st thou not
He feels himself much easier to-day ?

L

Butler. Well, 'tis his affair. Sad for the Tzaritza, Maria Feòdrovna ! the kind Tzaritza !

Steward (looking out of the window). Ah ! there 's a crowd ! What swarms are crawling there !

Butler. Yes, several days the halls have all been crowded :

They come for news of the Tzar's health.

Steward. Thank God, The Wizards clearly were at fault ! The day Of Cyril now is come, and yet the Tzar Is better.

[*To the Servants.*]

Ho, there ! are ye ready yet ?

Butler (looking at his list). Nothing forgot !

Steward (to Servants). Now, then, be off with ye !

[*Exeunt Servants.*]

See, here they are, well classed, each in its row, But little wanting. All the brightest stones, And gold, and silk, and rich brocades. The room Is all aflame with them.

Butler. Hush ! Some one comes !

Steward. Oh, Lord, perhaps the Tzar !

Enter Bèlski.

Butler. No, it is Bèlski.

Bèlski. Have ye got all ready here ?

Steward. All, my Lord.

Bèlski. The Tzar will come directly. Look ye that

He be with all content ; that he in us
 No cause do find to vex him. Both his doctors
 Say, for God's sake keep to-day from him all
 Care of anger.

[*Laughing is heard.*

Who is laughing there ?

Enter Fool. A crowd of Buffoons in strange costumes follow him, carrying rebeccs, bag-pipes, pans, and different sounding utensils.

Fool (to Bèlski).

Noncle

Bogdàn ! I 've brought thee dance and song. Then,
 listen !

Buffoons (dancing).

Hoy ! burn, burn, burn !

Make fast thou hag, the wicket !

Pull the goat's horn, and nick it !

Hoy ! burn, burn, burn !

Three legs for hags to trick it !

Fool. Well, now, how likes it thee ?

Bèlski. 'Tis passable.

Look ye now, Masks ! Largesse will not be stinted.

Before the Tzar twist ye your heels o'erhead !

Now for awhile get ye to yonder room,

And hide ye there. When I shall call out,

Knaves !

In, all of ye, and rattle out the song

Your liveliest.

[*The Buffoons cross the stage and go through a side door.*

Belski (*to Fool*). Stand thou the whole time by The Tzar ; keep watch upon his countenance ; And if he but begin to frown, throw in What jest thou hast most laughable.

Fool. Ah ! yes, Throw in ! Wilt thou not try that throw thyself ? And he will throw thee out of window for' t !

[*The door opens.*

Belski. He comes ! Go jest with him !

Ivan is carried in, in an arm-chair. He wears a dressing-gown ; his countenance shows the exhaustion of illness, but has a triumphant expression. The chair is placed in the middle of the room, and before it is put a small three-legged table. After *Ivan* enter *Godunoff*, *Matielaffski*, *Shoviski*, and the other Boyars, with the exception of *Zacharin*.)

Ivan (*sitting in the arm-chair, to Godunoff*). To-day we cannot

Again receive the Envoy of the Queen. Let him to-morrow, without sword or orders, Come to take leave of us. In our bedchamber We will receive him simply. Now, let's see What we can to our Sister Elizabeth

Assign in gift, and what unto her Niece,
Our bride.

Bèlski. From Persia here are fabrics, Tzar,
A choice of them ; it may be some will please
The Queen.

Ivàn. No, she 's not one that thou canst catch
With rags. Peèsemski writes to us from London,
That in the woods she likes to hunt the deer,
Is fond of hawking, and the fight of beasts.
We will a gift provide unto her taste.
Give me those trappings furbished with turquoise,
And interset with pearl ; and put up also
That housing there, the one that 's set with gems.

[*The objects he asks for are handed to Ivàn.*

He examines them, and signs to put them away.

We 'll send her also two live bears in chains
Of gold, and with them falcons six of breed
Siberian. Let our sister think of us
When she diverts herself. T' th' Lady Hastings—
That 's another matter. Dresses we 'll find
For her. Hand me the rings and necklaces.

[*Various objects of jewellery are handed to Ivàn. He takes them up, and examines them one after another.*

This necklace here of diamonds and sapphires,
With rubies mixed, we 'll send to the Princess.

A dark gem is the sapphire, and when one
 Doth gaze into its depth, it calms the soul
 And drives away all grief ; the ruby watches
 O'er the faith of women, therefore is its hue
 A blood-red colour. Of the rings send this
 To her ; it is the costliest of all :
 'Tis called the stone *Balas* ; 'twas brought to us
 From India, and is not easily
 Obtained, because the fear-inspiring beasts,
 The griffons, there do flee from it. The bite
 Of snakes is healed by it. Let, then, our bride
 Upon her finger wear it for our love :
 As for the tissues, I 'm not learned in them ;
 Ask the Tzaritza *Mària* about them ;
 Old women are well up in that. Hah ! likes it
 Th' Tzaritza, that we send to the Princess ?

Fool. Ho, daddy Tzar !

Ivàn.

What ?

Fool.

When hast thou a mind

To marry thee ?

Ivàn.

What 's that to thee ?

Fool.

A whim.

[*Pointing to Michael Nagòi.*

I want to do a piece of service to
 Our Mishka there : the day of the Nagòis
 I' th' palace now is over, so I want
 To get up this for them.

[*Takes his cap, and goes round with it as if begging for alms.*

Ivàn. What dost thou, Fool ?

Fool. I 'm gathering threads, Tzar, round about the world,

To make a shirt up for Nagòi ; * he 'll want it !

Ivàn. Ha, ha ! A rare fool thou, a very fool !

But, fear not, the Nagòis I 'll find in clothes.

[*To the Nagòis.*

Ye there ! If ye do serve me well, I 'll not

Abandon you.

[*Looking at the treasures.*

My chests, thank God, have something
In them still ; I have got the wherewithal
For those whom I 'd reward ; a good time yet
'Twill last me.

[*Cries heard on the square before the Palace.*

Hah ! What cries are those ?

Godunòff. The people
Are noisy, Tzar ; they are rejoicing that
Thy health 's restored to thee.

Ivàn. Let them rejoice ! Roll out to them, upon
The open square, a hundred casks of mead
And wine. To-morrow morning there shall be
Fresh fun for them. The Wizards and Astrologers,
Who lyingly foretold my death to-day,

* The word "nagoi" in Russian means "naked."

Shall roasted be on pyres. Go, Boris,
 And tell them of their punishment, then come
 And let me know the faces that they make.

[*Exit Godunoff.*]

Hah ! they would try to jest with me ! They wished
 To frighten with their Cyril's day ! No man
 Can know the day of death beforehand. None !
 You ! Do you hear ?

Shouiski.

We hear, O Tzar !

Ivan.

Then, why

Your mouths shut ? Is it like that any man
 Can say beforehand, *so long* I 've to live ?
 Or *thus* my life must end ?

Mstislaffski.

None can, great Tzar !

Ivan. Well, well, what then ? Why are your mouths
 shut, ah ?

Shouiski. Great Tzar ! that thou mayst keep in
 health we pray

To God both day and night.

Mstislaffski.

May the Lord heal thee,

And quickly of His grace !

Ivan.

Am I not, then,
 Yet healed ? What dost thou mean ? Am I, then, ill ?
 The sun is on the wane, and I feel heartier
 Than in the morning. I have many years
 Of life before me yet, enough to build up
 Anew my kingdom. In my dying hour,

When by my carcass, with the Holy Senate,
 The Metropolitan shall pray, I 'll say to 'em,
 Weep not, I 'm comforted ; for I can hand
 An empire free of troubles to my son,
 Thus will I go unto my God.

[*Bèlski makes a sign to the Fool, who has been examining different articles on the table.*
The Fool takes up a box with chessmen, and carries it to Ivàn.

Fool. Noncle Tzar ! See here, what puppets !

Ivàn (to the Boyars). To death for lies the Wizards
 have I sentenced ;

Say, is not this my sentence just ?

The Boyars. Just, Tzar !

Ivàn. Then, if 'tis just, why are ye tongue-tied ?

The Boyars. Great Tzar ! forgive. We know not
 what to say.

Ivàn. Ye know not ? So, to death, then, I 've devoted
 Men that are innocent ? So, then, the Wizards
 Have not lied ?

The Boyars. They 've lied, Tzar ! They have lied !
 The torment meets the fault. For guilt like theirs
 Such death as theirs is little.

Ivàn. Hah ! at last !

To ope their mouths they are afeared. Words from
 them

Must be drawn out with pincers.

[*A silence.*

What d'ye mean

By whispering there ?

Shouiski. No, Tzar, we did not whisper.

Ivàn. Ye seem to wait to-day for something ? Ah !
What are ye waiting for ?

Fool. O noncle Tzar !

Give but a look t' th' poppets here !

Ivàn. What's in 't ?

Bèlski. A game of chess, O Tzar, sent as a present
B' th' Tzar of Persia to thee.

Fool (looking over the figures). Here are dresses !

Bèlski (taking a board from the table). And here's
the board for them.

Ivàn. Here, give them me ! (*examines the chessmen*).
'Tis long since I have played a game. Sit down,
Bogdàn ; let's see who's stronger.

[*Servants bring candles.* *Ivàn places his men.*

*Bèlski sits opposite him, and also places his
men.*

Fool (to Ivàn, pointing to the chessmen). To the life,
T' th' very life thy Boyars ! Now, look here,
Set those, the living ones, aside, and place
I' th' Council these. Affairs will not go worse,
And these will not want feeding.

Ivàn. Ha, ha, ha !

The clown's but half a fool to-day.

[*He moves a pawn. The game begins. All
stand round the Tzar's chair, and look on.*

Fool. Or, in their stead, make thou of me a Boyar :
 I 'll seat me in the Council all alone,
 And disaccord will there be none with me.
 Or, noncle, send me to Lithuania
 As Envoy to congratulate the King.

Ivàn. On what, Fool ?

Fool. Ah ! on breaking 'gainst the wall
 Of Pskoff his head.

Ivàn. 'Twould not be bad to send thee ;
 Garàbourda he sent me with his glove ;
 I take it, he 'll think twice now ere he march
 On Nòvgorod.

Shouïski. Not he !

Ivàn. The Diet hath
 Refused the King's supplies. I' faith, it moves
 To laughter ! To a sovereign his subjects
 Won't e'en give money.

Fool. 'Tis not so with us :
 Aught wanted—here man, there man—and 'tis got !

Bèlski (advancing his queen). Check, Tzar !

Ivàn (covering with his bishop). Check to thy queen !

Shouïski (smiling to Bèlski). What hast thou gained ?
 The queen is lost !

Ivàn. 'Tis like it !

Bèlski. Yes, 'tis so ;
 The queen is lost !

Ivàn. The game goes well for us :

We have not quite forgotten yet to play ;
 Our sickness yet hath not deprived us of
 All power of thinking. Cyril's day ! Hah ! 'twas
 A rare device ! The cursed dogs ! But whither
 Hath Boris betaken him ? Why comes he not
 To bring their answer ?

[*Bèlski takes the Tzar's bishop. Ivàn wishes to take his queen with his own king, and drops the latter piece on the ground.*

Fool (running to pick it up). Oh, oh, oh ! The Tzar
 Hath tumbled !

Ivàn (bursting out). Fool ! take heed ! Thy place
 know, sirrah !

[*To Bèlski.*

Thy move !

[*The game continues. Godunòff appears in the doorway.*

Godunòff (speaking low, and pointing out Ivàn to one of the Boyars who stands behind the others).

How is he now ?

Boyar (low to Godunòff). His mood is wrathful :
 Already twice his anger hath been roused.

[*Godunòff approaches and stands opposite Ivàn.*

Ivàn (raising his head). Thou here ! Well, what ?

Thou 'st seen the conjurors ?

What was their answer ? Why art thou tongue-tied ?
 Canst thou not speak ?

Godunoff.

Hem, Tzar !

Ivan.

Why look'st thou so

On me ?

[*Steps back from Godunoff.*

How darest thou look thus ?

Godunoff.

Great Tzar !

The Wizards bade me say to thee, for answer,

That true their science is.

Ivan.

How ?

Godunoff.

That they cannot

Be in error, and that—not over yet

Is Cyril's day !

Ivan (rises and totters). Not over ? Cyril's day ?

And thou dost dare—

Thou darest—villain !—to my face—thou—thou—

I 've understood thy look ! To kill me thou—

To kill me thou art come ! Traitor ! Ho, deathsmen !

Fedor ! Son ! No trust in him ! A thief !

No trust in him. Ah !

[*Falls backward on the floor.*

Shouiski (runs to him and holds up his head). God !

but he 's going !

Belski. Call in the doctors ! send for them at once !

Ivan (opening his eyes). A confessor !

Belski. Run for a priest there, knaves !

Run quickly ! What ho there, knaves ! What ho !

[*The Buffoons rush in, singing, dancing, and whistling.*

Buffoons.

Hoy ! burn, burn, burn !

Pull the goat's horn and nick it !

The Boyars. What's this ? What means it ? Back, as ye fear God !

The Tzar is dying !

Mstislàffski. Send for the doctors !

[*Ivàn expires. Several Boyars rush out of the room. The Buffoons run off.*]

Enter Elms and Jacòbi.

Jacòbi. Where is the Tzar ?

Bèlski (pointing to the body). He's there !

Jacòbi (bending down and feeling Ivàn's pulse). The pulse beats not.

Elms (taking the other hand). No, it is still !

Jacòbi. The heart beats not.

Elms. Quite dead !

Jacòbi. Life is over !

Godunòff. He's gone !

[*Opens the window and cries to those on the square.*

People of Moscow !

The Tzar Ivàn Vasilevitch is dead !

[*A confused noise of talking on the square.*

Godunòff leaves the room. The Boyars surround Ivàn, and gaze at him in silence.

Enter Zachàrin : he stops before the body.

Zachàrin. 'Tis over ! There thou art, then, Tzar Ivàn,

Before whom Russia hath trembled so long.
 Powerless, helpless dost thou lie there
 Without movement, and in the midst of all
 Thy treasures poor ! What do we stand and wait for,
 Boyars ? Should *he* be in the dust before us,
 Before whom we have in the dust been lying
 For half a century ? Or is it now
 Fearful for ye to touch him ? Fear ye not !
 He 'll ope his eyes no more ! That feeble hand
 Will grasp no more the iron staff, nor those
 Cold lips deal punishment around.

[*They take up Ivàn, place him on a bench,*
make up a pillow for him, and cover him
with brocade.

Fèdor, the Tzaritza, and the Tzarèvna Ireeña enter
hastily.

Fèdor (*rushing up to the corpse*). O Tzar !
 My father !

Tzaritza. O God, have mercy on us !

Ireeña. O God !

[*All three weep loudly. The cries on the square*
increase.

Enter the Chief of the Strelitzes.

Chief (*to Fèdor*). Great Tzar ! th' people are
 rioting !

They 're climbing up the steps !

Feòdor (frightened). What do they want ?
Chief. Their cry is that Shouïski and Bèlski have
 Poisoned the Tzar !

The Centurion of the Strelitzes rushes in.

Centurion. The people, Tzar, have seized
 Upon a cannon ! They 'll have down the palace !

Bèlski (to Feòdor). Give orders to fire upon
 them !

Feòdor. Where is
 My brother-in-law ? Boris ! Boris ! What
 Must I do ?

Enter Godunòff.

Godunòff (solemnly to Feòdor, falling on his knees).
 O mighty Tzar !

Feòdor (rushing to him). Ah ! thou 'rt there
 At last !

[Cries on the square, among which are to be
 heard the names of Shouïski and Bèlski.

Shouïski (to Feòdor). Decide, O Tzar !

Feòdor (pointing to Godunòff). There is the one
 Now to decide. To him I do entrust
 From this instant all my power.

Godunòff (after saluting Feòdor goes to the window).
 People of
 Moscow ! Feòdor Ivànitch, by th' will

Of God Grand Duke and Tzar of all the Russias,
 Hath ordered to inform you that from sickness
 The Tzar Ivàn hath died. No one is guilty
 Of his death. But Shouïski and Bëlski long
 Have you oppressed ; which knowing, the Tzar
 Fedòr

Doth to a distance out of Moscow banish them.

[*Confused noise on the square.*

Shouïski. Borìs Fedòrítch ! What mean 'st ? What
 dost thou ?

Bëlski. Why are we banished ?

Godunòff. Ye are free to stay :
 Will 't please ye go upon the stairs ?

Shouïski. Thou seest
 We shall be torn to pieces !

Bëlski. They will tear us
 Limb from limb !

Godunòff. 'Tis my belief.

[*To the Chief of the Strelitzes.*
 From Moscow,

Under strong guard, send off these Boyars. When
 You reach Pokròff, you will be there informed
 Where you must take them.

[*Shouïski and Bëlski are surrounded by the
 Strelitzes.*

Zachàrin (to Godunòff). Boyar, thou art prompt ;
 We know not who it was that raised the riot.

Godunoff. The Nagòis, and with Mstislàffski.

[*Pointing to Beetiagòffski, who enters well dressed, and bearing an appearance of respectability.*

There stands

The witness of their guilt !

The Nagòis and Mstislàffski. What ! 'He ?

Beetiagòffski (impudently). Yes, I !

Godunoff (to Mstislàffski). Prince, thou hast merited
death, but the Tzar
Doth banish thee only to a monastery.

[*To the Nagòis.*

As for ye two, from love to the Tzarítza,
He pardons you, and orders you, with her
And the Tzarèvitch, to depart for Oùglitch.

[*To the Tzarítza, pointing to Beetiagòffski.*
This man to watch o'er all of ye is ordered.

Tzarítza (to Feòdor). Trust him not, trust him
not, Feòdor ! Tzar,
Send us not away !

Feòdor (to Godunoff). May it not be, brother,
That the Tzarítza stay ?

Godunoff. It will be better
There for her, great Tzar !

Zachàrin. Boyar Godunoff !
I see thou hast a master's hand in ordering !
Thou 'st found a place for all. I am the sole one

Forgotten by thee. Say, then, where am I
To go ? To exile ? To a monastery ?
To a prison ? Or to my death ?

Godunoff. My father,

The Tzar doth beg that thou wilt stay by him.

Tzaritza (to Zacharin). Oh ! save me ! Save me,
Boyar ! We are lost !

Zacharin. God grant, Tzaritza, that all be not now
lost !

An evil seed thou 'st sown, O Boyar Godunoff !
I hope for no good harvest from it ! Thou

[*Turning to the body of Ivàn.*

Tzar Ivàn ! May the good God pardon thee !
May He pardon all of us ! The chastisement
Of self-willed power see ! See that wherfrom
Ruin doth stalk around !

Fedor (with tears to the Tzaritza). Dear, honoured
lady !

Weep not ! There is no help ! 'Tis plain that so
It must be.

Godunoff (goes to the window). People of Moscow,
the great Tzar

Fedor Ivànovitch doth pardon you !
Go all of ye, and pray for the repose
Of the soul of Tzar Ivàn, and to-morrow,
By morning, through all Moscow shall be given

Out to you full supplies of bread and wine.

[*Cries on the square.*

Long live the Tzar, Feòdor Ivanòvitch !

Long life unto the Boyar Godunòff !

[*Feòdor throws himself sobbing on the neck of Godunòff. They stand embracing each other.*

THE END.

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